

FCO 7/1462

**Development of River Plate
Basin schemes in
Latin America (Argentina,
Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil and
Bolivia) (1970)**

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Mr Ling		26/3						
Mr King	(7)	1/4						
Mr Hanna	(6)							
Reg.		9/7						
Mr Austin.		29/7						
Reg.		31/7						
Mr Austin		4/8						
Mr Clissold	(8)	25/8						
Mr Clissold								
R.		15/9/70						
Mr. Hanna	20+15							
R		16/9/70						
Mr. Sherman N.T.S)		17/9						
Reg.		18/9/70						
Mr. Hanna		21/9/70						
R		22/9/70						
Mrs. MacCall								

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TEMPORARY JACKET

Parent file marked to: MR Austin.
..... Dept.:
..... on(Date) 10/8

H.M. DIPLOMATIC SERVICE

DEPT. AMERICAN

FILE TITLE: RIVER PLATE BASIN
DEVELOPMENT.

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	Mr Hendrie							
	Mr Hamia	28/8						
	Mr Ham.	7/8						
	Mr Hamia.	9/8.						

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BRITISH EMBASSY
ASUNCION

31 August 1970

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AL 6/13.

UNCLASSIFIED
2/2

Dear Robson,
River Plate Basin

Thank you for your letter of 19 August.

2. In the event, the meeting was put off because of current events in Uruguay. No new date has yet been settled, but there are rumours it might be held in January.

Yours ever,
A.G.L. Turner
(A.G.L. Turner)

J.A. Robson, Esq.,
American Department,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London S.W. 1

Copies to

- M.C. Camell, Esq., C.R.E.D., Board of Trade
- Miss E.J. Beaven, H.M. Treasury,
- R.J. Clifford, Esq., Bank of England
- Mrs D.M. Keand, Ministry of Overseas Development
- W.A. Newsome, Esq., Ministry of Technology
- Chancery, Buenos Aires

[Handwritten signature]
p.a

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18



Spoken to Mr Clissold CABINET OFFICE
LONDON, S.W.1

RECEIVED
POSTAL DEPARTMENT
-4 SEP 1970
AZ 6/3
Dear Robson,

*who will seek counsel for
de-~~scrip~~tion X
Mr Hayne
28 August 1970*

*W/9 Mr Bissett
Mr Clarke
Info JB/ix p.c.*

Thanks for letting me know of Research Department's intention of producing a paper on the development of the River Plate Basin. I am sure this will be useful to economic departments especially and am glad to note that Research Department will be consulting these at the drafting stage. The Despatch and Memorandum from Buenos Aires on this subject (2/4 of February 1970) whetted my appetite but I would hope that Research Department's paper could go into the financial side of the developments rather more than was done in that Memorandum (which in general, however, I thought very useful).

I am copying this to Mr Clissold in Research Department.

Yours sincerely,
Owen Rees
Owen Rees

J A Robson Esq
American Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
SW 1

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American Department

(17)

(AL 6/13)

27 August, 1970.

Research Memoranda: the River Plate Basin

Please refer to Chris Lucas' letter of 17 July about the future commissioning of research papers on Latin American subjects. Latin American Section of Research Department in the F.C.O. have proposed drafting a short paper on "the development of the River Plate Basin - some political and economic issues". We think that this would be useful and of interest to other departments, including the Board of Trade. We also think that this could be very satisfactorily handled in Research Department, F.C.O., and that it would not be necessary to call at this stage on the services of Assessments Staff. However, we should, of course, be very ready to circulate the paper to interested departments, and would consult these as appropriate at the drafting stage.

2. If you agree, we will proceed on this basis.

(J.A. Robson)

O. Rees, Esq.,
Assessments Staff,
Cabinet Office.

c.c.

Mr. Clissold, Research Department

[Handwritten signature]
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p.c.

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American Department

(17)

(AL 6/13)

27 August, 1970.

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(J.A. Robson)

O. Rees, Esq.,
Assessments Staff,
Cabinet Office.

c.c.

Mr. Clissold, Research Department

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To:—

Mr. O. Rees,
Assessments Staff,
Cabinet Office.

From

J.A. Robson
Telephone No. & Ext.

Department

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.....In Confidence

c.c.

Mr. Clissold,
Research Dept.

Research Memoranda: the River Plate Basin

Please refer to Chris Lucas' letter ^{27 July}

about the future commissioning of research papers on Latin American subjects. Latin American Section of Research Department in the FCO have proposed drafting a short paper on "the development of the River Plate Basin - some political and economic issues". We think that this would be useful and of interest to other departments including the Board of Trade. We also think that this could be very satisfactorily handled in Research Department, FCO, and that it would not be necessary to call at this stage on the services of Assessments Staff. However, we should, of course, be very ready to circulate the paper to interested departments, and would consult these as appropriate at the drafting stage.

2. If you agree we will proceed on this basis.

J.R. 27/vii

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(papers in mid July)
12/14/8*

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A26/13 (14)

Minutes

Mr. Robson *or.*
American Department

(I think this might be worth while, The "Lucas" com. might need to be considered?)

The River Plate Basin

Clowd/8.

I have been reading with interest lately reports from posts regarding developments in the River Plate Basin and wondering whether this might perhaps be a topic which we ought to consider dealing with in the form of a Research Department memorandum. Posts naturally report from the specific point of view of the country where they are situated; it seems to me that this is a question where we should try and get the widest possible over-all view. The reporting also seems to me to be concerned mainly with developmental and institutional aspects which may well obscure some of the fundamental political considerations involved, notably the deep-seated rivalry between Argentina and Brazil and their struggle for influence in the smaller countries of the area.

Take insufficient account of

2. I would therefore ^{suggest} consider that we might consider drafting a paper on The Development of the River Plate Basin - some political and economic issues. This could be kept fairly short and conclude with a section on Implications for the United Kingdom which the posts concerned could be asked to contribute. (Mr. Hadow's despatch of 26 February last contains some useful material on this).

3. If we do attempt such a paper, Ministry of Overseas Development and perhaps some other bodies outside the usual FCO Departments (who will of course see the draft) might be asked to comment. (If so, I should like to consult you further on this as I am not in touch with the appropriate branches).

S. Clissold
S. Clissold
Research Department
6 August 1970

[Handwritten signature]
7/18 p. 2

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A-6/13 (14)

Minutes

Mr. Robson *a.r.*
American Department

(I think this might be worthwhile, The "human cont." might need to be considered?)

The River Plate Basin

Clissold

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S. Clissold
S. Clissold
Research Department
6 August 1970

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7/13/70

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14 SEP 1970
AL/6/13

BRITISH EMBASSY,
BRASILIA.
3 September, 1970

Mr. Sturman *JSR*
(N. & T. Dept.) *17-9-70*
You may wish
to note the entry
into force.

River Plate Basin Treaty

The above Treaty, concluded between Brazil, Argentine, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay in Brasilia on 23 April, 1969, came into force on 14 August, 1970 (30 days after the deposit of instruments of ratification by all parties). *OK/ann- 17/ix*

2. The text of the Treaty is promulgated by Decree 67084 of 19 August, 1970, published in the Diario Oficial of 20 August, 1970.

3. I leave it to Rio to decide whether it is necessary to translate the Treaty in full (other posts interested may already have done so at the time it was signed).

4. Article 1 of the Treaty states that the object is to promote the harmonious development of the River Plate Basin and its surrounding areas. To this end the parties will seek to identify areas of common interest, carry out studies, plans and works as well as formulating working procedures or necessary legal instruments. The parties propose:-

- (a) to facilitate and give assistance to navigation;
- (b) rational use of the water supply especially through the regulation of water courses and the profitable and equitable increased use of the same;
- (c) to preserve and encourage animal and vegetable life;
- (d) to improve the interconnection of road, rail, river, air, electrical and telecommunications services;
- (e) to further, in the area, the promotion and establishment of industries relevant to the development of the Basin;
- (f) to further the economy of the frontier areas;
- (g) to co-operate mutually in matters of education, health and the struggle against disease;
- (h) to promote other projects of common interest and especially those that are related to the inventory appraisal and improvement of natural resources in the area;
- (i) to further the total knowledge and understanding of the River Plate Basin.

Miss J. C. Elagden,
Rio de Janeiro.

13. The

18/ix *JSR* *p.c.*

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3. The Foreign Ministers of the parties are to meet once a year and the permanent organisation under the Treaty is the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee set up at a meeting in Bolivia in May, 1968.
4. Collective action is not to prejudice individual projects of the participating countries.
5. The Treaty is to have unlimited duration but parties may give notice of intention to withdraw; the withdrawal to take effect one year after lodging a formal notice denouncing the Treaty.
6. It was within the context of the Treaty that the countries concerned organised the conference held in Brasilia in May of this year and which produced the document referred to in my 6/5 of 16 June (your 6/29 of 30 June to American Department).

⑧

(R. G. Tallboys)

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 Buenos Aires
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 and American Department, FCO. ✓

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BOARD OF TRADE

Commercial Relations and Exports Department

1 Victoria Street, LONDON S.W.1

Telex: 27366 Answer Back: BOTHQ LONDON

Telegrams: Advantage London S.W.1

Telephone: 01-222 7877, ext.

16

Our reference: CRE/23588/G

Your reference:

B P Austin Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
SW1

Reply sent by Mr. Robson.

P. a.
BPA 19/8

6 August 1970

AL 6/13

Dear Austin, BPA 7/8

RIVER PLATE BASIN

u

Thank you for your letter of 30 July, enclosing a letter from our Ambassador in Asuncion.

You can tell the Ambassador that we are very interested in the commercial aspects arising from the River Plate organisation and in particular the IDB's River Plate Development Scheme, about which a number of firms have already made enquiries. We should also, of course, like to be given fullest details of the outcome of the Foreign Ministers' meeting.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours sincerely
Chas Camell

M C Camell

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American Department,

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19 August, 1970.

- A26/13

River Plate Basin.

9

I am sorry that you did not receive an earlier reply to your letter 2/2 of 3 July about the meeting in Asuncion this month of the River Plate Organisation. We did not in fact have any special guidance to give and agree with the comments of Chancery, Buenos Aires, in their letter 2/4 of 14 July.

2. However the subject is certainly of interest to us and we should be glad to receive in due course a report on the Foreign Minister's meeting in Asuncion this month. The Board of Trade have received a number of enquiries from firms interested in the commercial aspects of the River Plate Development Scheme and we would be glad to have your comments on the development and future prospects of the Organisation, in particular as they may effect foreign trade and investment in the area.

(J. A. Robson)

B. C. MacDermot, Esq., C.B.E., M.V.O.,
ASUNCION.

cc.: M. C. Camell, Esq.,
CRED, Board of Trade.

Miss E. J. Beaven,
H.M. Treasury.

R. J. Clifford, Esq.,
Bank of England.

Mrs. D. M. McKeand,
Ministry of Overseas Development.

W. A. Newsome,
Ministry of Technology.

Chancery,
Buenos Aires.

[Handwritten signature]
p-c-

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DRAFT LETTER

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Restricted.
Unclassified.

To:— Mr. MacDermot,

Asuncion.

From
Mr. J. A. Robson
Telephone No. & Ext.

Department

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RIVER PLATE BASIN

Copied to:

Mr. Camell, CRED
Board of Trade.

^{E. J.}
Miss Beaven,
Treasury.

^{R. J.}
Mr. Clifford,
Bank of England.

Mr. McKeand,
ODM

Mr. W A. Newsome
Min. Tech.

*Chancery
Buenos Aires*

*Mr. [unclear] [unclear]
B.P.A.
18/8*

I am sorry that you did not receive an earlier reply to your letter 2/2 of 3 July about the meeting in Asuncion this month of the River Plate Organisation.

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number of enquiries from firms interested in the ~~impli-
commercial aspects of the River Plate Development Scheme
cation of the establishment of the River Plate Organi-~~

~~ation and we ourselves would be glad to know how the
comments on the development of future
Organisation may develop and what are its prospects,
of the Organisation,~~

in particular as they ^{may} effect foreign trade and investment in the area.

J. Robson

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MINISTRY OF TECHNOLOGY

Millbank Tower, LONDON S.W.1

Telephone: Victoria 2255

Ext 97

3 August 1970



Enter (13)

p.a. 7/1/4/8

Dear Austin,

River Plate Basin

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 30 July 1970 to Camell at the Board of Trade.

2. We have, in Mintech, no particular points that we would wish to be raised in response to the letter of 3 July from the Embassy in Asuncion. We would, however, be grateful to be informed in due course about the outcome of the foreign ministers' meeting, as some of the matters under discussion are likely to be of considerable interest to Mintech.

3. Copies of this letter go to the other recipients of yours under reference.

Yours sincerely,
Tony Newsome

W A Newsome

B P Austin Esq
American Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London
S W 1

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BANK OF ENGLAND

London,
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En C
pa.
BPA
5/8

5th August 1970.

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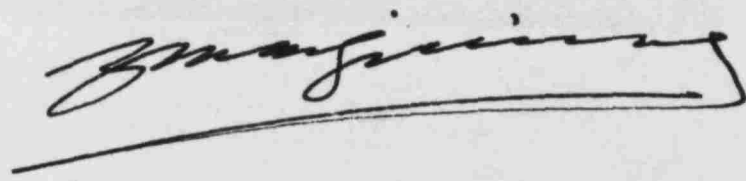
Dear Austin,

River Plate Basin

With reference to your letter to Camell of 30th July,
we for our part would have no special points to offer for mention
in this context.

I am copying this letter to Camell and to the other
recipients of your letter.

Yours sincerely,



B.P. Austin, Esq.

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American Department 11

(AL 6/13)

30 July, 1970.

River Plate Basin

I enclose a copy of a letter from Asuncion about the forthcoming meeting there of Foreign Ministers of the five countries involved in the River Plate Basin treaty, Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay.

2. Details of the projects involved in the development of the River Plate Basin were given in Buenos Aires despatch of 26 February, 1970 (reference 2/4).

3. From our point of view the main points of interest in the Foreign Ministers meeting would be any decisions which might be reached on the setting up of the Financial Corporation mentioned in the enclosed letter, and any other decisions on increased co-operation between the countries concerned. I should be grateful to know whether you, or any of the other recipients of this letter, would wish any other points to be mentioned.

(B.P. Austin)

M.C. ✓ Camell, Esq.,
C.R.E.D.,
Board of Trade.

c.c.

Miss E. Beaven,
Treasury.

✓ R.J. Clifford, Esq.,
Bank of England.

T. Griffiths, Esq.,
E.C.G.D.

Mrs. L. McKean,
O.D.M.

✓ W.A. Newsome, Esq.,
MinTech.

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M. C. Camell Esq.
C. R. E.
Board of Trade

From

T. P. Auster
Telephone No. & Ext.

Department

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.....In Confidence

River Plate Basin

I enclose a copy of a letter from Asuncion about the ~~holding of the~~ ^{forthcoming} ~~meeting~~ ^{there} of Foreign Ministers of the five countries involved in the River Plate Basin treaty, Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay. ~~Some~~ Details of the projects involved in the development of the River Plate Basin were given in Buenos Aires despatch of 26 February 1970 (reference 2/6)

From our point of view the main points of interest in the Foreign Minister meeting would be ~~whether~~ any decisions which might be ~~reached~~ ^{reached} on the setting up of the Financial Corporation mentioned in the enclosed letter and any ~~approval~~ ^{approval} for other decisions on ~~ways~~ increased cooperation between the countries concerned. I should be grateful to know whether you, or any of the other recipients of this letter

copy to encl. to:
Miss E. Beaven
Treasury,
R. S. Clifford Esq
Bank of England
T. Griffiths Esq
E. C. G. D.
Mr L. McKeand
O. D. M.
W. H. Newsome Esq
Min. Tech.

enc
copy of
attached

BPA/
30/7

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

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would wish any other points to be mentioned.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

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Mr. Hendry
Mr. Long
Mr. Brown

16

RECEIVED IN
REGISTRY No. 18
20 JUL 1970

BRITISH EMBASSY,
BUENOS AIRES.

14 July, 1970

AL 21 / 13
AL 6 / 13

21/00

(2/4)

Dear Chancery,

River Plate Basin

a

Please refer to your Ambassador's letter of 3 July to Charles Wiggin on this subject.

2. We have no special points to which we would suggest you pay particular attention when the Foreign Ministers of the five countries meet in Asunción on 12 August. However, we should be most interested to hear what transpires at the meeting and to know in general whether or not real progress is made towards joint development of the River Plate Basin.

3. It seems to us that the most significant development there has been since the Ambassador's despatch "Argentina and the River Plate Basin" of 26 February 1970 was written was that, in the course of a five-power meeting of technical experts in Brasilia at the end of May, Argentina and Brazil were reported as having reached an agreement on the problem of water levels. The concern about the navigability of the Paraná river, which followed from calculations about the effects of Brazil's ambitious hydroelectric projects and which have become the subject of an acrimonious dispute, is discussed fully in paras. 7-10 of our despatch. It appears that the Brazilians compromised their previous position, which was that the schemes in the Alto Paraná would really help the regulation of the level of water in the river, and went a long way to meeting the Argentines' worries. Representatives of the five countries resolved that the necessary measures would be taken so as to ensure that the river of the Basin would continue to be navigable. It was also reported, though the relevant passage was in vague terms, that the meeting recommended a tax for "services rendered" in connexion with maintaining the volume of water in the rivers and cheapening navigation.

4. The exact status of the recommendations made by the experts is not wholly clear. Last month, the Intergovernmental Co-ordinating Committee, the C.I.C., issued a statement which referred to the atmosphere of "perfect understanding" at the experts' meeting and went on to say that the experts exchanged hydrological

Chancery,
British Embassy,
ASUNCION

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and meteorological data together with information on the quality of the waters of the Cuenca and their utilization and exploitation, both by individual countries and jointly. The communiqué added that the experts considered two specific aspects of utilization, namely navigation and hydroelectricity. The experts suggested that bilateral studies should be made by the affected countries on the use of the rivers for hydroelectric schemes. The purpose of these would be to lay the groundwork for schemes having the best technical and economic features. The schemes would be planned with the object of avoiding damage to the interests of one country by the use by the bordering country for its hydroelectric projects of water drawn from the rivers. This consideration would apply not only to water taken from shared stretches of rivers but also to that taken from stretches lying wholly within the borders of the user-country, since this latter use could affect other countries in much the same way. We will have to wait and see just how all this turns out but it does seem that a good atmosphere has been created for the effective ironing-out of the formidable problems in connexion with river levels, which at an earlier stage threatened to bedevil the development of the Basin.

5. We have little to add to paragraph 2 of your Ambassador's letter of 3 July about the Paraguayan proposal for setting up a financial corporation. This initiative was originally launched, we understand, by the Uruguayans. According to an earlier press report we saw that the Paraguayans were counting on the support of the International Development Bank but we have not seen anything subsequently to confirm this hope. The pattern up to now has been that the I.D.B. has been judiciously aiding individual feasibility studies. Backing by the Bank for a central organization would clearly be an important development. We shall of course be extremely interested to know how the proposal for a financial corporation fares at next month's meeting.

. Yours ever,

CHANCERY

c.c. Chanceries

Rio)	With copies of
Montevideo)	Mr. MacDermot's
La Paz)	letter of 3 July

American Dept., F.C.O.

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BRITISH EMBASSY,

ASUNCION

3 July, 1970

RECEIVED IN
REGISTRY N. 13
- 8 JUL 1970
AZ 6/13

*Rule
Mr. [unclear]
wpps, BPA/7
This requires a reply (20
conclusion with DM)*

Dear Wiggins

J.P. 8/11

*pa.
BPA/19/8*

River Plate Basin

I do not know what degree of interest we are taking in the River Plate organisation and should be grateful if you and the Embassy at Buenos Aires would brief us on any points that ought to receive special attention when the Foreign Ministers of the five powers meet here in the first half of August.

2. A meeting of experts, which ended yesterday, has been discussing the setting up of a Financial Corporation, which will have an authorised capital of U.S. \$100million and a paid up capital of U.S. \$20million. No agreement has been reached as to what the share of each country should be and there has been a difference of opinion about voting rights. Are decisions to be taken by a plain majority vote or by block votes representing the capital contributed? Paraguay put forward a compromise suggestion whereby a simple majority vote would be needed for granting loans but there would be a weighted voting according to contributions in matters involving the contracting of obligations - what they seem to have in mind by this is the raising of loans from other entities.

3. The Paraguayans have put in a bid to have seat of the new Corporation in Asuncion.

[Signature]
(B.C. MacDermot)

C.D. Wiggins, Esq., CMG, DFC, AFC,
American Department,
Foreign & Commonwealth Office

c.c. Chancery, Buenos Aires

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REGISTRY No. 18
- 8 JUL 1970
AL 6/15



BRITISH EMBASSY
RIO DE JANEIRO.

30 June 1970

(8)

(6/29)

Registry, Pl. send encl. for translating B.P.A./7

Dear Department,

Conference of the River Plate Countries

The annual conference was held in Brasilia from 18-22 May. We have obtained informally from a friendly journalist a copy of the final document.

*Mr. Cassold
to see
on return
of encls.*

2. The document consists of a brief formal report listing the delegations of the five countries participating and explaining that the conclusions of the Conference are set out in the attached Annexes I - IV:-

Annex I deals with proposals to further advance meteorological and hydrological works and research associated with the River Plate basin.

Annex II deals with the matter of pollution as an integral part of the conservation and the utilisation of the water resources, considering legal and administrative aspects, technical aspects and proposals for the organisation of methods for the control of pollution.

Annex III deals with the need to develop an improvement in the conditions of international navigation in the River Plate basin, and makes various recommendations for steps to be taken towards the improvement and standardisation of navigational facilities and regulations.

Annex IV recommends further studies regarding the best technical and economic use of the water resources for hydro-electric schemes and recommends that the realisation and operation of hydro-electric schemes should not be allowed to prejudice the interests of any other country in the basin.

3. According to press reports, experts of the countries concerned were to meet again in Assuncion on 29 June to discuss the financing of projects.

Yours ever,
Bryan White
(B. O. WHITE)
Head of Chancery.

American Department,
Foreign & Commonwealth Office.
King Charles St.
LONDON, S.W.1.

Copy to:- Assuncion, La Paz, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Brasilia.

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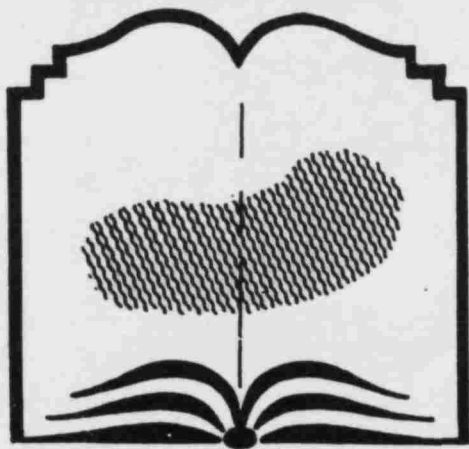
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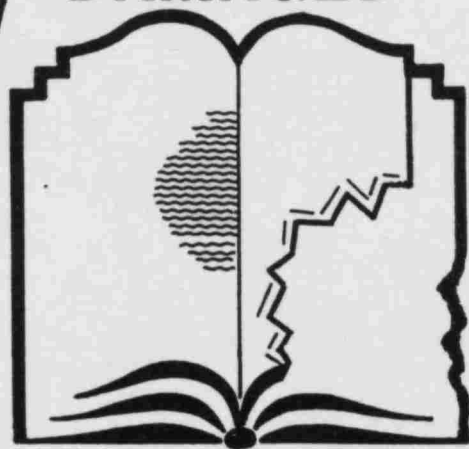
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TO READ**

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**TEXT OR
BINDING**

Senhor Presidente,

De acordo com a convocatória do IIC, o Grupo de Peritos de Recurso Água reunido-gente Partido Humbrity, em Argentina, nos dias 18, 19, 20, 21 e 22 de maio de 1960, participando das deliberações em matéria de parâmetros:

ARGENTINA
 Doutor Júlio Barbera
 Engenheiro Júlio Campagnolo
 Engenheiro Carlos Roberto da Silva
 Engenheiro Jaime da Silva
 Conselheiro Doutor José de Melo
 Capitão de Fragata Alfredo A. Machado
 Engenheiro Mário C. Machado
 Secretário de Imprensa Doutor Fernando Galentim
 Rádio
 Secretário de Imprensa Doutor João Maria
 Fischer
 D. José Valente

BOLÍVIA
 Embaixador General Carlos
 Ministro General Carlos

BRAZIL
 Embaixador General Carlos
 General Agrônomo
 Professor Maurício
 Doutor Augusto
 Professor Paulo
 Conselheiro Luiz
 Conselheiro João
 Professor de Matemática Almeida
 Tenente-Coronel Cavaleiro
 Engenheiro Ernesto
 Engenheiro Mário Galhardo
 Engenheiro Gustavo
 Engenheiro Afonso Henrique
 Engenheiro Arnaldo
 Secretário Mario Lanza

PARANÁ
 Almirante Guillermo
 Doutor Alexis
 Engenheiro José

Brasília, 27 de Junho de 1970.

Senhor Presidente,

De acordo com a convocatória do CIO, o Grupo de Peritos de Recurso Água reuniu-se no Palácio Itamaraty, em Brasília, nos dias 18, 19, 20, e 21 de junho em curso, participando das deliberações os seguintes representantes:

ARGENTINA

- Doutor Julio Barberi
- Engenheiro Julio César Jasson
- Engenheiro Carlos Sebastiani Cavallo
- Engenheiro Jaime A. Cordeiro
- Conselheiro Doutor Carlos Alberto Pereira
- Capitão de Fragata Inteiro A. Riquelme
- Engenheiro Mario C. Guachira Loria
- Secretário de Intendência do Consórcio Valentin Judic
- Secretário de Assessoria Doutor Esteban A. Alcega
- D. José Federico

BOLÍVIA

- Embaixador General Guevara
- Ministro Conselheiro Doctor Roberto Maldonado

BRASIL

- Embaixador Doutor Roberto Rodrigues de Barros
- General Anny Torres
- Professor Maurício Corrêa de Azevedo
- Doutor Augusto Mendes de Almeida
- Professor Paulo Mendes de Almeida
- Conselheiro Ezéquiel Pontes de Azevedo
- Conselheiro João Moraes Pereira de Azevedo
- Professor Venâncio da Almeida Bastos
- Tenente-Coronel Oswald de Almeida
- Engenheiro Ernesto Soares
- Engenheiro Flávio Galhardo de Almeida
- Engenheiro Geraldo Teixeira de Almeida
- Engenheiro Afonso Henrique de Almeida
- Engenheiro Amílcar de Almeida
- Secretário Mario Lanza

PARAGUAI

- Almirante Guillermo Hoyos
- Doutor Alexis Frutos
- Engenheiro José Domingo

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BUENOS AIRES

Embaixador Emilio Grife
 Doutor Felipe Paolillo
 Capitão-de-Mar-e-Guerra Claudinet Bernet
 Capitão de Marinha Isidro Pisko
 Conselheiro Carlos Domingo Cartelino
 Engenheiro Conrado Serrentino

2. A sessão inaugural se realizou no dia 13, tendo sido eleito Presidente da Reunião o Embaixador Lauro Escocrel de Moraes, Chefe da representação do Brasil. Decidiu-se, nessa sessão, que a consideração da Agenda fosse distribuída a três subgrupos, dedicados respectivamente aos pontos 1 e 3; 2; e 4 da referida Agenda.

3. Reunidos os citados subgrupos, apresentaram ao plenário as sugestões que foram unânimesmente aprovadas e que figuram em anexo.

4. O Grupo de Peritos esclareceu que só examinou os pontos da Agenda relativos às sugestões apresentadas. Quanto aos demais temas ou outros aspectos dos já examinados, sugere ao Comitê a conveniência de analisá-los em próximas reuniões, nas quais, conforme referência expressa da Agenda, levar-se-ão em conta dos documentos de trabalho já apresentados ou os que o sejam no futuro, pelas representações Nacionais.

Aproveitamos a oportunidade para apresentar a Vossa Excelência os protestos da nossa perfeita estima e distinta consideração.

A Sua Excelência o Embaixador D. Umberto Bricante Paz,
 Presidente do Comitê Intergovernamental de Coordenação.

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URUGUAI

Embaixador Emilio Oribe
 Doutor Felipe Paolillo
 Capitão-da-Mar-e-Guerra Claudinet Bernet
 Capitão de Marinha Iazaro Panko
 Conselheiro Carlos Domingo Bartolomeo
 Engenheiro Conrado Serrentino

2. A sessão inaugural se realizou no dia 18, tendo sido eleito Presidente da Reunião o Embaixador Lauro Escorel de Moraes, Chefe da representação do Brasil. Decidiu-se, nessa sessão, que a consideração da Agenda fosse distribuída a três subgrupos, dedicados respectivamente aos pontos 1 e 3; 2; e 4 da referida Agenda.

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A Sua Excelência o Embaixador D. Umberto Irizarre Paz,
 Presidente do Comitê Intergovernamental de Coordenação.

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C.I.C.

II REUNIÃO DO GRUPO DE PERITOSRECURSO ÁGUAANEXO I

O GRUPO DE PERITOS,

CONSIDERANDO:

que, no quadro do desenvolvimento dos Estados da Bacia do Prata, é conveniente proceder ao intercâmbio de dados hidrológicos e meteorológicos para o que é necessário uniformizar as técnicas de observação, instalação e ampliação de estações e tendo em vista as recomendações da OEA, do Decênio Hidrológico Internacional e da OMM,

SUGERE ao Comitê Intergovernamental Coordenador

Que recomende aos Estados da Bacia:

1. Ampliem e melhorem suas redes básicas em cada país observando, quando possível, as Recomendações da OEA, transcritas no Quadro nº 7.3.3, nos Anexos 7.3.1 e 7.3.2 do seu Relatório, (doc. 333.72-S-7739.1) bem como os projetos de redes nacionais, recorrendo a recursos próprios ou oriundos das organizações internacionais de crédito.
2. Que para melhorar a observação e intercâmbio de dados hidro meteorológicos procedam da seguinte forma:
 - 2.1 a instalação de uma estação climatológica principal no baricentro de cada zona climática, sem consideração da sua importância econômica atual e prevendo-se sua constante integração nas condições do desenvolvimento futuro da rede.
 - 2.2 a observância às normas da Organização Meteorológica Mundial (OMM) na instalação e operação das estações climatológicas e pluviométricas.
 - 2.3 o intercâmbio de previsões meteorológicas, a curto e longo prazo, através dos Centros Meteorológicos Regionais (CMR) de Brasília e do Serviço Meteorológico Nacional (SMN) de Buenos Aires, previstos no plano da Vigilância Meteorológica Mundial.
 - 2.4 para a transmissão de dados de estações previamente selecionadas pelo país operador, utilizar-se-á o sistema de radioteletipo da rede meteorológica, fichas ou registros

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C.I.C.

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CONSIDERANDO:

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SUGERE ao Comitê Intergovernamental Coordenador

Que recomende aos Estados da Bacia:

1. Ampliem e melhorem suas redes básicas em cada país observando, quando possível, as Recomendações da OEA, transcritas no Quadro nº 73.3, nos Anexos 7.3.1 e 7.3.2 do seu Relatório, (doc. 333.72-S-7739.1) bem como os projetos de redes nacionais, recorrendo a recursos próprios ou oriundos das organizações internacionais de crédito.
2. Que para melhorar a observação e intercâmbio de dados hidrometeorológicos procedam da seguinte forma:
 - 2.1 a instalação de uma estação climatológica principal no baricentro de cada zona climática, sem consideração da sua importância econômica atual e prevendo-se sua constante integração nas condições do desenvolvimento futuro da rede.
 - 2.2 a observância às normas da Organização Meteorológica Mundial (OMM) na instalação e operação das estações climatológicas e pluviométricas.
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 - 2.4 para a transmissão de dados de estações previamente selecionadas pelo país operador, utilizar-se-á o sistema de radioteletipo da rede meteorológica, fichas ou registros

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registros meteorológicos e/ou anuários conforme o período que se estabeleça em cada caso e para cada estação.

2.5 Far-se-á o intercâmbio de dados pluviométricos de acordo com o procedimento seguinte:

2.5.1 sem interrupção da transmissão das mensagens SINOP, correspondentes às necessidades sinóticas, deverá ser agregada, independentemente e sem interrupção da mensagem SINOP, a mensagem pluviométrica que consta da sigla PLUVI, seguida de uma série de números, indicativa do código da estação, da classificação internacional do fenômeno e do parâmetro medido.

2.5.2 os três últimos números indicarão, em milímetros, a quantidade da precipitação ocorrida em cada 24 horas.

2.5.3 se, por motivos de congestão do tráfego, em alguns casos, omitir-se a transmissão da mensagem SINOP, sempre deverá transmitir-se a mensagem PLU VI, que, por ser de curta extensão, não afetará uma maior densidade de tráfego.

2.6 Os países operadores remeterão, brevemente, memorial descritivo contendo o equipamento e métodos de operação que permita fixar o grau de confiabilidade dos dados coletados.

2.7 Estes canais de intercâmbio são os operantes, mas, além disso, os Estados manterão informado periodicamente o C.I.C. sobre o intercâmbio efetuado com os demais países.

3. Intensificar as ações tendentes a equipar as estações nacionais de interesse comum dos meios que possibilitem e/ou facilitem a obtenção e intercâmbio da informação hidrometeorológica.

4. Que se estabeleçam entre Estados limitados por rios contíguos, ("tramos compartilhados"), convênios que permitam a qualquer um deles realizar medições de descarga, tantas quantas sejam necessárias, no tempo e no espaço, para uma melhor definição do regime fluvial no trecho de fronteira, utilizando equipamentos e instalações não-permanentes e removíveis.

5. Que, em rios contíguos, se convier aos ribeirinhos, sejam montadas, na seção ou seções selecionadas, escalas limimétricas fronteiriças, observadas cada uma pelo respectivo Estado, procedendo-se, periodicamente, ao intercâmbio dos

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2.5.1 sem interrupção da transmissão das mensagens SINOP, correspondentes às necessidades sinóticas, deverá ser agregada, independentemente e sem interrupção da mensagem SINOP, a mensagem pluviométrica que consta da sigla PLUVI, seguida de uma série de números, indicativa do código da estação, da classificação internacional do fenômeno e do parâmetro medido.

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2.7 estes canais de intercâmbio são os operantes, mas, além disso, os Estados manterão informado periodicamente o C.I.C. sobre o intercâmbio efetuado com os demais países.

3. Intensificar as ações tendentes a equipar as estações nacionais de interesse comum dos meios que possibilitem e/ou facilitem a obtenção e intercâmbio da informação hidrometeorológica.

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5. Que, em rios contíguos, se convier aos ribeirinhos, sejam eretidas, na seção ou seções selecionadas, escuras limimétricas fronteiriças, observadas cada uma pelo respectivo Estado, procedendo-se, periodicamente, ao intercâmbio dos

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- 8.7.2 análise da regressão; análise de autocorrelação; correlogramas; análise espectral da série hidrológica;
- 8.7.3 caracterização final da série dos eventos hidrológicos na seção básica especial, pela distribuição das probabilidades matemáticas de máxima aderência;
- 8.7.4 idem para os eventos climatológicos;
- 8.7.5 caracterizações especiais do evento hidrológico ou climatológico, a critério dos interessados.
- 8.8 Os países oferecerão a seu critério exclusivo e por solicitação da parte interessada os programas que tenham a respeito.
9. Que todos os dados processados sejam objeto de divulgação e permuta sistemática através de publicação.
10. Que dados por processar, sejam simples observações, leituras ou registros gráficos de instrumentos, sejam permutados ou fornecidos a juízo dos interessados.
11. Que tendam, na medida do possível, a intercambiar gradualmente os resultados cartográficos e hidrográficos de suas medições na Bacia de modo que se facilite a caracterização do sistema dinâmico.

DECLARAÇÃO

Tendo em conta a amplitude do ponto 3 e a importância do Relatório elaborado pela OEA, assim como a dos demais documentos disponíveis, o Grupo de Peritos do Recurso Água expressa sua satisfação pelo excelente estudo feito por aquela Organização e sugere ao CIC:

- a) que o leve em consideração, bem como os demais trabalhos sobre a matéria ao preparar o temário das futuras reuniões do Grupo de Peritos, explicitando os pontos que devem ser debatidos;
- b) que recomende aos países da Bacia intercambiar suas apreciações sobre o documento em apêndice.

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CIC

II REUNIÃO DO GRUPO DE PERITOSRECURSO ÁGUAANEXO II

O GRUPO DE PERITOS,

CONSIDERANDO

que o controle de poluição das águas é parte integral de uma política de conservação e utilização dos recursos hídricos e que qualquer plano de aproveitamento do recurso-água em uma Bacia deve prever sempre um efetivo controle dessa poluição;

que é conveniente conservar-se, no maior grau possível, as qualidades naturais das águas superficiais e freáticas, protegendo-as de novas contaminações e procurando reduzir a atual contaminação a fim de garantir-lhes o uso para múltiplos fins, inclusive o abastecimento de água potável e industrial, a irrigação, a dessedentação de ranchos, a conservação e desenvolvimento da flora e fauna e os aspectos recreativos;

que em função dos vários usos previstos para o recurso-água da Bacia, deve ser bem estabelecido o conceito de poluição das águas, que é dinâmico e, portanto, variável no espaço e no tempo;

que é altamente aconselhável um maior intercâmbio das experiências de caráter técnico, administrativo e legal no campo do controle de poluição das águas;

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águas;

SUGERE ao Comitê Intergovernamental Coordenador:

1. Aspectos Legais e Administrativos

- 1.1 Que recomende aos Estados trocar informações referentes às estruturas administrativas dos organismos que controlam o problema da poluição em cada país, indicando áreas e metodologia de trabalho adotada, bem como aquelas informações relativas às legislações em vigor.
- 1.2 Encomendar a um grupo de peritos o estudo comparativo das legislações e estruturas administrativas (nacionais, estaduais, provinciais e municipais) existentes que tratam da poluição das águas da Bacia do Prata, apresentando, caso possível, um texto único que possa ser aceito unilateralmente pelos respectivos Estados.
- 1.3 Encomendar, do mesmo modo, ao grupo de peritos citado no parágrafo anterior que examine e informe sobre os procedimentos práticos e fórmulas jurídicas internacionais tendentes a evitar a poluição das águas superficiais e subterrâneas no âmbito da Bacia do Prata.

2. Aspectos Técnicos

- 2.1 Que as conclusões da VIª Reunião de Ministros de Saúde Pública dos Países da Bacia do Prata e do Seminário sobre "Qualidade de Águas da Bacia do Prata", realizado no Rio de Janeiro, em novembro de 1968, sejam consideradas como contribuição de alto valor para o exame dos aspectos tecnológicos das presentes sugestões.
- 2.2 Que recomende aos Estados trocar informações técnicas, métodos e processos tecnológicos por eles empregados, no campo do controle da poluição das águas.
- 2.3 Que recomende aos Estados propiciar a instalação e o desenvolvimento de Centros de Pesquisa encarregados de estudar e aperfeiçoar métodos de tratamento de efluentes domésticos e industriais, bem como adestrar pessoal e promover o intercâmbio de peritos e informações neste campo.

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- 3 -

campo.

2.4 Encomendar a um grupo de peritos o exame e definição das seguintes recomendações de caráter técnico com o propósito de concretizá-las.

2.4.1 Estabelecimento de métodos uniformes de amostragem e análises a ser empregados nos programas de controle da poluição das águas da Bacia.

2.4.2 Estabelecimento de um número mínimo de parâmetros significativos, a ser intercambiado, para permitir uma apreciação global do problema.

2.4.3 Eleição de laboratórios de referência que sirvam de apoio tecnológico para o desenvolvimento desses programas.

2.4.4 Estabelecimento de um número de estações permanentes de amostragem, adequadamente distribuídas, que permitam acompanhar a evolução dos programas de controle de poluição das águas da Bacia, especialmente nas áreas limítrofes de cada país.

3. Programas de Controle de Poluição

3.1 Que recomende aos Estados organizar e executar, dentro das possibilidades e de acordo com as respectivas estruturas institucionais e administrativas, um programa de efetivo controle da poluição das águas em seus territórios.

3.2 Que recomende aos Estados promover o desenvolvimento de programas educacionais para que a população compreenda e aprecie a importância da conservação dos recursos hídricos da Bacia e das vantagens resultantes de um adequado controle de sua poluição.

3.3 Que recomende aos Estados propiciar as facilidades necessárias para a construção de instalações para tratamento dos efluentes domésticos e industriais, assim como a adoção de medidas tendentes a difundir processos tecnológicos que tendam a reduzir os custos de tais instalações.

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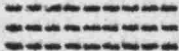
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instalações.

3.4 Que recomende aos Estados promover e incentivar estudos e programas que tenham como finalidade o repovoamento da fauna ictiológica afetada pela poluição das águas da Bacia, bem como, em zonas que o requeriram, o reflorestamento tendente a diminuir ou eliminar os riscos da poluição física dessas águas.

NOTA.: O termo "poluição" usado neste texto corresponde à palavra "contaminación" em espanhol.



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soberania, adotando para isso as medidas necessarias a fim de que as obras que se realizem não afetem de maneira prejudicial outros usos atuais do sistema fluvial.

9. Que ao realizar obras destinadas a qualquer fim nos rios da Bacia, adotem as medidas necessarias para não alterar em forma prejudicial as condições de navegabilidade.
10. Que ao perceber eventualmente taxas pelos serviços efetivamente prestados mediante obras que introduzam melhorias na navegação, tenha sempre em conta a conveniencia de baratear o custo de transporte fluvial.
11. Que na realização de obras no sistema fluvial de navegação, se adotem medidas tendentes a preservar os recursos vivos.
12. Que considerem os termos de referência do projeto A-4 da Ata de Santa Cruz de la Sierra, como uma valiosa contribuição para o melhor aproveitamento dos rios da Bacia como vias navegaveis.

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CIC

II REUNIÃO DO GRUPO DE PERITOS

RECURSO ÁGUA

ANEXO IV

O GRUPO DE PERITOS,

CONSIDERANDO

que o aproveitamento hidrelétrico econômico dos rios contribui para promover o desenvolvimento dos países,

SUGERE ao Comitê Intergovernamental Coordenador que recomenda aos Estados da Bacia:

1. que promovam a realização de estudos conjuntos bilaterais dos trechos limítrofes, para identificar as melhores soluções técnico-econômicas, com vistas ao aproveitamento hidrelétrico do recurso-água, nesses trechos, tendo em conta outros usos atuais e futuros desse recurso;
2. que a realização e operação de obras hidrelétricas, nos trechos não compartilhados, não causem prejuízos sensíveis a outro Estado da Bacia.

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(1)

Argentine and the River Plate Basin

I write to thank you very much for your most useful despatch 2/4 of 26 February, describing the main features of the Argentine Government's development programme for the Basin of the River Plate.

2. The Board of Trade have found the Annex summarising the projects which are at present being carried out, or which have been proposed, most useful. All this material is, of course, particularly timely in view of BA 70. Perhaps you could convey our appreciation to Martin and others in the Embassy concerned with the production of this report.

(C. D. Wiggin)

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His Excellency Mr. R. M. Hadow, C.M.G.,
Buenos Aires.

26/3/70
P.S.

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Letter

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Unclassified.

To:—
His Excellency Mr
R. M. Hadow, ~~CMG~~, CMG,
Buenos Aires.

From
Mr. Wiggin
Telephone No. & Ext.

Department

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.....In Confidence

*Mr Wiggin
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gone to Tsy,
Bank Boss,
ECGD, Minkech
ODM and
DEI. I don't
think we
should print.
Jue L. Ling
23
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Argentine and the River Plate Basin

very much for

I write to thank you ~~for~~ your most useful despatch 2/4 of 26 February, describing the main features of the Argentine Government's development programme for the Basin of the River Plate. "The Board of Trade have found the Annex summarising the projects which are at present being carried out, or which have been proposed, most useful. All this material is, of course, particularly timely in view of BA 70. Perhaps you could convey our appreciation of his effective work to Martin, ~~and not to be~~

and others in the Embassy concerned with its ^{the} production of this report.

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- 1. Mr. *R. J. Clifford* 25/3
 - 2. *Encl*
 - 3. Mr. *W. S. ...*
 - 4. Mr. *Harvey*
- W. S. ...*
W. S. ...
24/iii

With the Compliments of the
Bank of England.

R.J.Clifford

OVERSEAS DEPARTMENT.

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Copy to: The Hon.H.A.A.Hankey, C.M.G., C.V.O., [F.C.O.]

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REGISTRY No. 18	
25 MAR 1970	
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BANK OF ENGLAND,

23rd March 1970.

Dear Lucas,

Aid - Latin America

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Would you please refer to your letter to Smith of the 10th March commenting on the opportunities for the deployment of aid in connection with the development of the River Plate Basin.

We agree that there should be plenty of scope for U.K. aid in this field. However, from Appendix 1 to the paper on the "Future of British Aid to Latin America" it appears that Argentina is not particularly high on C.D.M.'s list of priorities. Not only is there no allocation for capital aid either in Appendix 1 or the Aid Framework for the financial years 1971-1972 to 1973-1974, but the allocation for technical assistance, in Appendix 1, at £50,000 per annum, is one of the lowest apart from that for Uruguay. By comparison the West Germans are quoted by the Embassy as providing DM 12 mn. (approximately \$3.25 mn.) for one set of studies in the River Plate area plus \$900,000 for another set, and it is hardly surprising, therefore, that they have won important contracts.

We realise that C.D.M. tend to be guided largely by the level of per capita income in determining the countries to which aid should be directed. It should be borne in mind, however, that even the relatively wealthy Latin American countries, such as Argentina, may still have pressing development needs.

I am copying this letter to Smith, Hankey and Magor.

Yours sincerely,

R. J. CLIFFORD

C.C.Lucas, Esq.,
[H.M.Treasury,
Great George Street, S.W.1.]

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Orig. on
ALU 3/325/1 (5) Mr. Brown

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REGISTRY No. 18
18 MAR 1970
ALU 6/13

RECEIVED
REGISTRY
18 MAR 1970



BRITISH EMBASSY,
BUENOS AIRES.

16 March, 1970.

Dear Department,

Argentine/Uruguayan Relations

On Sunday 15 March President Onganía of Argentina and President Pacheco Areco of Uruguay held a six hour meeting on board the Argentine Presidential yacht Tecuara as it cruised on the River Uruguay between the sites of the bridges which are to be built between Fray Bentos and Puerto Unzué and Paysandú and Colón.

2. The two Presidents were accompanied by their Foreign Ministers, Dr. Juan B. Martin of Argentina and Professor Venancio Flores of Uruguay and a number of other officials of both countries. The meeting was billed to be in the series of regular encounters between the two Heads of State envisaged in the declaration they published following their meeting in Buenos Aires in July 1968. A joint communiqué was issued - to be known henceforth as the "Declaration of the River Uruguay" - and we enclose a hasty translation based on the version published in this morning's Argentine newspapers. According to this document the two Presidents seem to have covered very thoroughly the whole range of relations between the two countries in the time that was available to them. There is a strong emphasis on the need to co-ordinate their efforts to promote economic development. The wording of the communiqué eschews the vague generalities customarily used after meetings of Latin American statesmen and in favour of the announcement of concrete steps, or at least the agreement on the need to take concrete steps, towards practical co-operation.

3. The remarks in the statement regarding the development of the River Plate Basin (see the Ambassador's despatch 2/4 of 26 February and enclosures) are of interest and suggest that, after many years of talk, both Governments are now determined to translate into reality projects which have for so long been little more than day dreams. Their realisation could well lead to commercial opportunities for us and we shall be following developments closely.

4. This latest meeting is part of Onganía's "good neighbour" policy following on other recent meetings with President Frei of Chile and President Stroessner of Paraguay. His determination to maintain a harmony with his neighbours is in welcome contrast to the attitudes of a number of his predecessors and gives grounds for hoping that he will be able to achieve an amicable settlement of the various border etc. disputes in the region which are the legacy of history.

Yours ever,
Chancery.

American Department,
F.C.O.

copied to: Chanceries in Montevideo, La Paz, Asuncion and Rio de Janeiro
O.P.G., E.S.B., C.R.E. of the Board of Trade.

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"DECLARATION OF RIVER URUGUAY"

Joint communiqué issued by President Onganía of Argentina and President Pacheco Areco of Uruguay following their meeting on 15 March, 1970

On 15 March continuing the series of meetings which they agreed to on 8 July, 1968, the Presidents of Argentina and Uruguay, Their Excellencies Juan Carlos Onganía and J. Pacheco Areco met and travelled on the lower waters of the River Uruguay from the site of the future Paysandú-Colón project to that of the bridge which is to be built between Fray Bentos and Puerto Unzué.

On this occasion they made a full analysis of the present state of relations between the two peoples and reiterated the statements made in the declaration of 8 July 1968 and considered the progress which had been made and took the opportunity of dealing with various political themes of mutual interest.

The two Presidents agreed that Argentina and Uruguay should institute a system which would permit them, without prejudice to their individual nationhood and their efforts towards internal development, to achieve as complete an integration as possible so as to share the greatest benefits for their peoples and consider that this is the best means of obtaining it. These bilateral measures are in accordance with the wish of both countries to perfect the relationships between the fraternal nations of Latin America.

In this spirit both Presidents exchanged ideas and opinions on the problems of the de-limitation of the jurisdiction of the River Plate and coast line and arranged that the work at present in progress between the respective Foreign Ministries should be intensified so as to achieve a rapid and happy solution.

At the same time they recognised that the exploitation of the economic resources of the waters, the bed and the sub-soil of the River Plate and the adjacent sea must benefit both countries and consequently they agreed to begin talks towards arriving at agreements which would allow them to take the maximum benefit from these resources. In particular they arranged for a study of the possibility of reaching an agreement for the exploration and exploitation of petroleum in the respective zones.

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Both Presidents agreed that the fishermen of both countries should be granted provisional facilities for the free exercise of their activities until these could be concretely established in an agreement.

They noted with pleasure the good progress in the task of constructing the two bridges which would unite both sides of the River Uruguay.

With regard to the Fray Bentos-Puerto Unzué bridge they resolved to urge the Mixed Committee (COMPAU) to call for bids before the end of May this year so that work could begin in the first part of 1971 and to be finished by the end of 1973.

As regards the Paysandú-Colón bridge they ratified the agreement of their governments to proceed with the receipt of bids by 30 March this year and to adjudicate them by 20 April so that construction could begin by 10 August, and the inauguration of the bridge at the end of 1972.

At the same time they agreed that it was right to continue their efforts towards the integration of the road systems of both countries and to this end took measures for the possibility of new bridges to be studied.

The Salto Grande project, to which they attributed great importance, will complete the first stage in the last quarter of this year. The technical/economic/financial report will then make it possible to begin negotiations with international sources of credit to ensure the financing of the project and the call for tenders during the course of 1972. They reaffirmed their intention that the Electrical Energy Centre will come into service at the end of 1977.

In addition both Presidents reaffirmed their decision to speed up the union of their electrical systems as a first step towards integration of energy resources referred to in the statement of Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

They reiterated their firm decision to put into practice the aims and objectives of the Programme of the River Plate Basin in conformity with the Treaty signed on 23 April 1969. They noted with pleasure that this will soon enter into effect. They underlined that the projects and initiatives approved by the Foreign Ministries of the five countries in the meetings at Buenos Aires, Santa Cruz de la Sierra and Brasilia will bring about the harmonious and balanced development of the region through concrete works and the necessary juridical instruments.

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With regard to the latter they agreed, apart from other multilateral steps which are pending, to begin negotiations to agree on a "statute" for the waters of the River Uruguay in regard to the stretches of the river common to both countries, thus putting into effect the agreement contained in Article VII of the Treaty of 7 April 1961.

They furthermore agreed that they must make maximum efforts to achieve the optimum and rational use of the great natural riches of the area and of the economic resources of the rivers which flow through the Basin which must be subjected to appropriate juridical and physical regulations.

The two leaders also pointed out the need to carry out studies concerned with the creation of a financial organisation which aimed at establishing an efficient cooperative organ for all the programmes and projects intended to carry out the aims of the Treaty of the River Plate Basin.

In order to achieve an authentic integration and inspired by profound traditions common to both peoples they agreed on the exchange of maximum facilities for the citizens of one country to stay and settle in the other. With regard to the agreement on social security which both governments signed in 1957, both leaders took note of the recent signature of the administrative agreement. Taking account of the progress reached in the matter of cultural exchange in accordance with the agreement signed in 1957 they agreed on the need and appropriateness of increasing its ambit substantially so as to bring about a real integration in scientific and technological fields based on the creation of bilateral institutional links in organisations in both countries. The same aim was seen in the field of sanitation in which an agreement is about to be signed. Referring to the agreement on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy signed between the two countries, the Presidents promised to speed up appropriate procedures to bring about the ratification of the instrument which has already been approved.

With regard to tourism they agreed that appropriate steps should be taken to bring about shortly a meeting between experts of both countries with the aim of drawing up a plan for the promotion of tourism, securing the participation of other American countries and especially that of neighbouring countries. Without prejudice to the rules and practice established following the exchange of notes on 12 February 1967 they agreed to arrange a meeting to consider the possibility of establishing a bilateral agreement on river transport which took count of the various aspects of common and reciprocal interest in this regard. At the same time they took note of the coordination

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between the respective technical organisations with regard to the application of the agreement on internal land transport.

With regard to economic relations both Presidents agreed on the need to continue their efforts towards bringing about a closer industrial cooperation in the main sectors of production and arranged for mixed committees for the various sectors which would be attended by government officials and businessmen to develop all the possibilities in carrying out agreements or of establishing other more integrated systems, considering that these methods offered sure prospects of economic development of both countries.

They also expressed their satisfaction at the results obtained in the sphere of the joint defense of ~~other~~ basic products in international markets through a system of consultation and exchange of information, especially with regard to the export of meat, which was created as a result of the agreement of the two Presidents at their meeting of 8 July, 1968.

The possibilities which this system opens up through the established coordinating organisation strengthen their confidence and their determination to perfect its working so as to fully achieve the objectives of common interest.

They agreed on the need to promote coordinated action in the countries of Latin America in their economic and commercial relations with the European Economic Community within the scheme proposed by Argentina in this regard.

With the object of increasing bilateral trade and to facilitate the entry of various Uruguayan products into the Argentine market President Onganía promised President Pacheco Areco that Uruguay would be granted immediate concessions in an announcement which would be issued by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs. Both Presidents agreed that they would take steps within their countries to facilitate the entry of those products which have been negotiated within the ambit of LAFTA and which are accepted as part of their normal commerce.

The Presidents agreed on the need to carry out a detailed study of the structure of the economic relations between the two countries with a view to intensifying and increasing the industrial development as well as the present commercial and financial exchanges.

They also agreed that Argentina and Uruguay should renew their efforts within LAFTA, promoting active negotiations within their annual meetings and measures which would give greater flexibility and possibilities both for the negotiating mechanism and for the means of carrying out industrial cooperation so as to ensure the achievement of objectives envisaged in the Treaty of Montevideo. In this respect they

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took note of the results of the LFATA Conference held in Caracas at the end of 1969, expressing their conviction that the Protocol signed there would give new impulse to the Association and would ensure that the undertakings contracted there would be carried out.

The preservation and exploitation of the resources of the sea along with their coast line is also a right of the people. Both Presidents regarded as a positive trend the movement in Latin America to claim these rights of jurisdiction in contiguous maritime zones. They agreed on the need to reach agreement with other Latin American countries to work out a joint position in defence of this principle before a World Conference on the Laws of the Sea was arranged.

Latin America has a possibility of working together to strengthen its general position with regard to world problems and of responding, in the decade which is now beginning, to the requirement imposed on it by its common origin and destiny for the sake of future generations. Among these demands they underlined the necessity of achieving a joint strategy with the object of protecting and improving local production, the just exploitation of financial development and the proper use of natural resources and the growing evolution of science and technology. Both Presidents expressed the common will of their respective governments to strengthen cooperation between the fraternal countries of the continent and to bring about a Latin American system suitable for promoting economic development, social welfare and the reaffirmation of their historical and cultural values.

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J. S. NORMAN

*Embassy
(LEAD) 2/12/70*

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MR E W M MAGOR QRED

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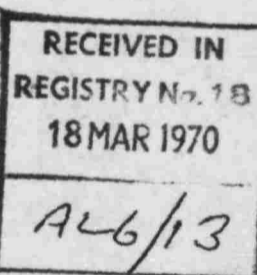
ARGENTINA AND THE RIVER PLATE BASIN

Thank you for sending to me a copy of the Ambassador's despatch of 26 February (ref 2/4) addressed to the Foreign Secretary on the above subject. The list of projects at Annex A and the summary of their present state is the only piece of paper without a security classification and we would want to tell industry as widely as possible of the existence of this useful summary. To do this we would want to provide a covering note summarising some of what is in the restricted memorandum about these developments in Argentina and I should be grateful if you would provide a suitable draft for us to publish in the Bulletin as soon as possible. The Post really ought to have provided it themselves for certainly GES are not really equipped to judge which parts of this long paper can be freely used and if you too find it necessary to consult the Post to produce an appropriate brief note suitable for publication quickly, either you or I could do so. In the meantime we propose to send copies of Annex A and Annex B to the British Consultants Bureau and also to the Export Group for the Constructional Industries.

cc Mr S A Rowe - please arrange for Annexes A & B to be sent under a brief covering note from you to the two bodies named.

Mr K D Jamieson FCO

J S NORMAN
GES
11 March 1970



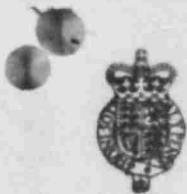
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Mr. Robson

(3)

H.A.H.



Treasury Chambers
Great George Street, London, S.W.1
Telephone: 01-930 1234, ext. 288
10th March, 1970.

Our Reference:
Your Reference:
Date

Aid - Latin America

Following our meeting about aid to Latin America I was particularly interested to see the special report from Buenos Aires about the development of the River Plate Basin (despatch of 26th February 1970).

The points which immediately occur to me here are that there is obviously enormous room for the use of aid in conjunction with this particular large scale and long term development. This is really therefore by way of commentary on the suggestion of the Chairman that it might prove to be difficult to find opportunities for spending much greater sums of aid in Latin America.

The other point of interest in the Despatch is the reference to the technical assistance already committed by the Germans. This suggests that there is probably considerable scope for the United Kingdom to consider providing technical assistance in much the same way that the Germans have done, and possibly with the same effects on trade which might be taken up by us as a result.

Copies go to Hankey, Magor, and Ryan,

Yours sincerely,

(G.C. Lucas)

D.M. Smith, Esq.,
Ministry of Overseas Development,
Eland House,
Stag Place,
S.W.1.

Mr King
Mr Browne
Mr Hankey
Encl

JR 12/13

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BRITISH EMBASSY,

LA PAZ,

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Enfer 9 March, 1970.

Re Broune

Dear Robson,

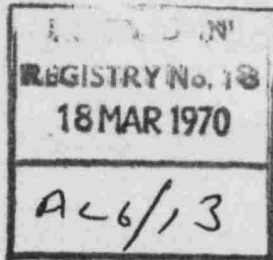
JR/jm

River Plate Basin Conference

I write to inform you that the Bolivian Government has formally ratified the Treaty of the River Plate Basin Conference which was initialled in 1969 in Brasilia.

*Yours ever
Eric Anglin.*

(E.J. Anglin)



J. Robson, Esq.,
American Department,
F.C.O.,
LONDON, S.W.1.

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Argentina and the River Plate Basin

Summary

The development of the great economic potential of the River Plate Basin by Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay is gathering momentum. (Paragraph 1)

2. A Memorandum describing Argentina's role in the Group together with a description of all projects either proposed or being carried out in Argentina within the framework of the Basin is enclosed with this despatch. (Paragraph 2)

3. In creating a sound economic infrastructure the Group may pave the way for closer economic and political ties. (Paragraph 3)

4. The development of the Basin offers considerable commercial possibilities for Britain. (Paragraph 4)

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RESTRICTEDBRITISH EMBASSY,
BUENOS AIRES.

(2/4)

26 February, 1970.

Sir,

Argentina and the River Plate Basin

The great economic potential of the River Plate Basin has long been recognised and during the past thirty years there have been a series of attempts to get the five riparian countries - Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay - to co-operate in its development. It was only in 1967, however, that the first really positive step was taken when, under the influence of the Inter-American Development Bank, the five countries met in Buenos Aires and set up a co-ordinating committee (as reported in Sir Michael Creswell's despatch number 10 of the 6th of March, 1967). Since then, the development of the River Plate Basin has begun to gather momentum.

2. The present Argentine Government clearly accept the importance of harnessing the potential of the River Plate Basin and have already put in hand a number of ambitious schemes within the region. I now have the

The Right Honourable
Michael Stewart, C.H., M.P.,

Etc., etc., etc.

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--- honour to enclose a Memorandum, largely the work of my Second Secretary, Mr. Martin, which discusses the main features of the development programme and

--- includes an Annex summarising the projects which are at present being carried out or which have been proposed. Obviously there will be delays and failures; perhaps some of the projects will be abandoned; there are many problems, notably those created by shortages of finance and of human resources, to be overcome. Nevertheless, the prospects are that much will be achieved during the next few years, and that the north and, in particular, the north east of Argentina will be transformed. The "Mesopotamian" provinces of Entre Rios, Corrientes and Misiones, until recently isolated from the rest of the country by great rivers, will be connected by rapid communications both with the main centres of economic activity in Argentina and with the neighbouring countries of Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil. Increased energy supplies from the projected hydro-electric schemes will make industrialisation a practical possibility whilst the improvement of irrigation will greatly benefit agriculture.

3. In the long term, the co-operative development by the riparian states of the River Plate Basin could bring

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still wider benefits in terms of increased economic and political integration of the region. There are, of course, strong nationalist feelings among the members of the group (as evidenced by the halting progress which is being achieved in the creation of a Latin American Free Trade Area) and the five countries are at pains to ensure that their co-operation does not impair their national sovereignty. There is reason to hope, however, that, in creating the economic infrastructure, the Basin development scheme will prepare the ground for closer ties.

4. For Britain the River Plate development projects offer considerable commercial possibilities. Our competitors are already in the field and it is important that we are not left behind. I hope that the information contained in the Memorandum and in its unclassified Annex can be put to good use by British contractors. We shall ensure that it is kept up-to-date.

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5. I am sending copies of this despatch and enclosures to Her Majesty's Representatives in La Paz, Asuncion, Montevideo, Rio de Janeiro, Washington and United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations, New York, and to the Ministry of Overseas Development, the Ministry of Technology, E.C.G.D., the Board of Trade, the Bank of England and the Treasury.

I have the honour to be,
with the highest respect,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Michael Hadow)

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within the framework of the Basin are attached at Annex A.

3. The aim of the member states of the Group is to create the economic and communications infrastructure which will enable the potential resources of the Basin to be exploited. It is hoped that this infrastructure will eventually give impetus to the creation of an effective Latin American Free Trade Association (L.A.F.T.A.). If, on the other hand, the concept of L.A.F.T.A. founders on the rocks of political difficulties and economic rivalries, some Argentine officials think (perhaps unrealistically) the Basin could still provide the nucleus of a viable alternative for the Argentine economy by leading to some form of regional customs union of a more limited scope between the countries of the Basin. If Argentina is to become fully industrialised and able to compete on equal terms with the developed countries, she must have access to a much larger market than her own population of less than 25 million. Under the Basin development scheme, each country continues to exercise fully sovereignty over its territory and all of them strongly resist any suggestion that the programme is a first step towards political integration.

4. The development of the River Plate Basin was first mooted at the "Conferencia Regional del Plata" held in Montevideo in 1941. The only result at the time was to reach an agreement on identity documents which still enables Argentines to travel to Uruguay without a passport. The Second World War intervened and the idea was dropped until 1957 when a conference was held to discuss it. On this occasion, however, Argentina strongly opposed any such scheme on the grounds that every country must have complete freedom to exercise sovereignty over its own rivers. The idea was again shelved until 9 years later when, in 1966, President Illia declared that he was in favour of the integrated development and organisation of the Basin. This reversal of policy was largely due to the influence of the Institute for the Integration of Latin America (INTAL) established in Buenos Aires in 1965 as a branch of the Inter American Development Bank.

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Sheridan pointed out in his memorandum accompanying Sir John Russell's despatch (2/25) of 15 May, 1969, although the spirit of the Brasilia Conference was one of outward cooperation and harmony, this smooth facade hid a mass of divergent national interests. The original idea of INTAL had been that a strong central organisation would work out and co-ordinate projects, treating the Basin as a whole. This, in view of the nationalist aspirations existing in each country, was wildly optimistic. At Santa Cruz de la Sierra it became clear that the "integrationalist" function of the Basin would be chiefly provided by separate national projects creating a common infrastructure. A further blow to the INTAL line of thinking was given at the same time when the Foreign Ministers rejected a proposal that the international organisations concerned should act as a secretariat to the group. The result is inevitably that each member nation is pursuing its own policies within the group and that there is little or no consultation or co-ordination. (See for instance the conflicting schemes for port development in Uruguay and Argentina, Annex A, Project 22). Ideally co-ordination would be carried out by the Inter-Governmental Co-ordinating Committee in Buenos Aires, but the latter is little more than a standing diplomatic conference, meeting irregularly and with only a small non-technical permanent staff.

7. An acrimonious dispute amongst member states has sprung from a quarrel over Brazil's ambitious hydro-electric projects, which were planned without consulting users lower down the Paraná river. The problem was first raised at inter-governmental level at the Santa Cruz de la Sierra Conference, the final act of which recommended that the Coordinating Committee draft a statute on the use and administration of the water resources of the Basin. Their task proved however to be an impossible one in the face of Brazilian refusal to discuss the juridical points involved prior

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to analysing the technical and economic aspects of each project.

There seems no doubt that the aim of the Brazilian position has been to block Argentine and Uruguayan efforts to secure the principle of prior consultation and compensation, where Brazilian projects are likely to affect users of lower stretches of the Paraná river. It was on this point that a meeting of experts held in Rio de Janeiro in August 1969 broke down.

8. The question has been exacerbated by some Argentine engineers maintaining that the filling up of the Jupia Dam in Brazil has been the direct cause of a difference from normal of the theoretical level of the Paraná river below the Argentine port of Santa Fé of as much as 2.10 metres. These claims were taken up by the former Argentine Vice President Admiral Rojas who has conducted a forceful campaign in the Argentine press and in a book he has published against the Brazilian attitude. In fact, Argentine officials are willing to admit privately that the drop in the water level of the Lower Paraná at the present moment is due to natural phenomena completely unrelated to Jupia. They are nevertheless concerned that the much larger Brazilian hydro-electric projects planned at Ilha Solteira, Sete Quedas and Guayra will have a marked effect on the level of the river which could seriously restrict access of large ocean going vessels to the ports of Rosario and Santa Fé.

9. The practical effects of the dispute with Brazil on Argentina's attitude to Basin projects may yet be considerable. It has been suggested for instance that the Apipé and Salto Grande projects (Annex A, projects 17 and 18) are being kept to the forefront as arguments to prevent the Brazilians from gaining too much control of the waters for hydro-electric schemes higher up in the main rivers. In fact, Salto Grande at least is quite high in Argentina's

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st of priorities but the fact that remarks of this kind are being made is significant. Similarly, a proposed "Mathematical Model of the River Plate Basin" (Annex A, project 30) which one British engineer has told us he considers as totally impractical will, according to General Spiegel the President of the Argentine Commission for the River Plate Basin, be "an important instrument for the evaluation of the modifications that the system of works constructed above Iguazú (i.e. in Brazil) might have on the natural order" It is tempting to wonder how influential this factor was in securing approval for the project.

10. The dispute between Argentina and Brazil is undoubtedly the most serious which the Basin has had to face and Argentine officials say that if it is solved considerable impetus will be given to the scheme. Hopes of arriving at some agreement have in fact been raised recently by approval in the Coordinating Committee of a new Uruguayan agenda which will enable the experts whose discussions were broken off at Rio de Janeiro to meet again within a month or two. The Argentines refuse to be too optimistic and accept that progress is likely to be slow but they point out, nevertheless, that in less than three years considerable headway has been made on many institutional problems connected with the group. This is no small achievement for 5 countries, which, as often as not, during their history, have been at loggerheads with each other.

11. The difficulties which the countries of the River Plate Basin group still face are tremendous but this should not obscure the potential importance of the project. Within a timescale of 30-50 years (probably less if account is taken of the acceleration of progress in the twentieth century) the Basin could become a highly prosperous agricultural and industrial region. Already, important steps have been taken towards physical integration within the Argentine sector of the Basin and the foundations are being laid

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for the creation of a sound economic infrastructure. Argentine projects at present in execution can be grouped under four headings (1) Energy, (2) Irrigation and drainage, (3) Road and bridge construction, (4) Improvement of the River and Port systems. The details of these are given in Annex A and it would be tedious to repeat them here. As yet the number of projects actually being carried out is very limited but a great many more have reached the stage of feasibility studies and it is likely that during the 1970s many of these will be started. The prospects for the Mesopotamian region of Argentina (the Provinces of Entre Rios, Corrientes and Misiones) until recently joined to the rest of the country by a system of largely antiquated ferry boats are already being transformed by the recently inaugurated subfluvial tunnel between Santa Fé-Paraná (Annex A, Project 7) and the construction of the Corrientes-Barranqueras bridge Annex A, Project 6). The Zárate-Brazo Largo Complex (Annex A, Project 21) tenders for which are at present under consideration will complete this trilogy. 15% of Argentina's cattle production and 7% of its agricultural production are from the Mesopotamian region yet it has been said that the River Paraná forms the boundary between advanced agrarian exploitations and traditional forms of subsistence farming. Improved communications will join these provinces once and for all to the markets of the rest of the country and eventually to those of Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil.

12. At the beginning of this memorandum it was pointed out that the aim of the River Plate Basin at least in the view of the Argentine Government is physical integration. There are therefore no proposals for the granting of preferential tariffs beyond those negotiated within the framework of LAFTA. (It is specifically stated in the Act of Santa Cruz de la Sierra that "The Treaty of Montevideo will be taken into account in the setting up of industries

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and in the adoption of complementary industrial agreements"). It would nevertheless be clearly illogical to create an elaborate economic infrastructure without attempting to reconcile and complement regional economies isolated at present by national frontiers. A number of special studies are therefore proposed of various frontier regions within the River Plate Basin. The first of these studies as far as Argentina is concerned, is of the possibility of complementing the economies of Southern Bolivia and Northern Argentina. This is being carried out by the Argentine State Planning Council (CONADE), the Bolivian Government and the Inter American Development Bank and is nearing completion. A second study is to be made of the region of the Lower Uruguay River. Preparatory work is expected to begin next year and a request will probably be made to the Inter American Development Bank for finance. The study was approved by the Presidents of Argentina and Uruguay following the visit of Dr. Pacheco Areco to Buenos Aires in July 1968 (Sir M. Creswell's despatch of 24 July (3/10/(2))). Projects to be included are the Salto Grande complex (Annex A, project 18), the Fray Bentos - Puerto Unzué bridge (Annex A, Project 24) as well as the proposed interconnection of the electricity supply systems of Argentina and Uruguay (Annex A, Project 20).

13. The opportunities which are being given and will be offered to foreign enterprise to take part in the development of the Basin are considerable. Argentina will need both technical knowhow and capital if the many ambitious projects which are planned are to be brought to fruition. It has been mentioned that most of the feasibility studies being carried out at present are being financed by loans and grants from the Inter American Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme. Other projects are receiving support from bilateral aid funds. The West Germans have been particularly active in the latter field. Herr Willy Brandt who as West German

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Foreign Minister visited Argentina in October 1968, took a special interest in the River Plate Basin Development and his visit was followed by a number of German experts who made contact at the technical level with members of the Argentine National Commission for the Basin. As a result, in October 1969 an agreement was signed between the West German and Argentine Governments providing for the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau of Frankfurt to loan 12 million marks in order to finance part of the studies for the Ibera project (Annex A, project 12) one of the most ambitious schemes so far proposed for the Basin. The conclusion drawn in a leading article in the Buenos Aires newspaper "Clarín" following the announcement of the loan is an interesting one and probably reflects the thinking of many officials. The paper said "If the studies confirm the merits of the project, it is logical to presume that for the execution of the works, the country will be able to continue to count on German technical and financial assistance". West German involvement has not been limited to Ibera. West German aid (US\$ 900,000) is also being used for a joint Argentine-West German investigation of subterranean waters in a zone adjacent to the River Paraná (Annex A, Project 28). On the commercial front important contracts for equipment have been won in the construction of the Corrientes-Barranqueras bridge (Annex A, Project 6) and the Santa Fé-Parana subfluvial tunnel (Annex A, Project 7). The biggest of the West German coups has been the Siemens contract for the Atucha Nuclear Power Plant but although listed as a River Plate Basin project, it cannot really be classified as such since its importance goes beyond the zone of the Basin itself. Indeed it is one of the features of the River Plate Basin development that for political reasons each country has a tendency to list projects which although technically falling within the limits of the scheme are in reality only marginally related to it.

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4. West German activity in the Basin has been listed at some length to give an idea of the kind of competition that British contractors and finance houses interested in the scheme are likely to encounter. There is no doubt that they should be interested as for years to come the projects planned are likely to provide a rich vein of opportunities. We ourselves are very much on the look out for studies which can be carried out at least in part with British technical assistance funds, a tactic which the West Germans have used to good advantage. One possibility worth keeping an eye on is the Guaaleguay Basin project (Annex A, Project 10). We have recently submitted to the Ministry of Overseas Development proposals from the Argentine State Planning Council (CONADE) to assist with a study of dredging in the River Plate important in the context of keeping open the shipping channels to the port of Buenos Aires. The British consulting engineers, Sir W. Halcrow & Partners, who maintain an office in Buenos Aires, are well placed to carry out studies in the improvement of river navigation and recently completed the study and design of a channel connecting Buenos Aires with the River Paraná de Las Palmas (Annex A, Project 11). In the early stages of the study two experts from the Hydraulics Laboratory at Wallingford visited Buenos Aires under Technical Assistance auspices. Britain has won contracts for equipment for the Corrientes-Barranqueras bridge (Annex A, Project 6) and negotiations are at present taking place which may lead to considerable British participation in the Zarate-Brazo Largo complex (Annex A, Project 21).

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15. It is true that the financial and technical aspects of many of the projects which have been proposed within the framework of the Basin have not always been carefully worked out. It is indeed a South American characteristic to elaborate pharaonic schemes costing enormous sums of money which on closer examination turn out to be totally uneconomic. A good example of this is the original plan for the development of the Rio Bermejo (Annex A, Project 16). Most schemes of this kind, unless there is some slender chance of their being carried out, have not however been included in Annex A. Details of them are available in Volume 6 of the Inter American Bank's Report referred to and it is a sign of the realism of the officials concerned with the River Plate Basin scheme that they have been assigned there to a separate appendix in the realisation that they are of little more than academic interest. Even then, many engineers would cast considerable doubts on the feasibility of projects such as Apipé and Ibera (Annex A, Projects 17 & 12).

16. It would be completely wrong, however, to adopt a negative attitude towards the Basin and to dismiss the whole scheme as another example of the folly of Latin American Governments. It is true that in the past, political instability has led to individual projects being treated as political pawns (one result of this being that there have been four feasibility studies for the Salto Grande development) (Annex A, Project 18). Renewed political instability, it is certain, would be a serious setback for the Basin. Nevertheless, the progress which has been made in the 3 years since the Group came into existence is such that it would be difficult for any government to put the scheme

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into reverse. Our own interest is clear. The greater the attention which Britain is able to pay to the development of the River Plate Basin, the more likely we are to benefit from the many commercial opportunities which will arise from it.

February, 1970

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River Plate Basin Projects - ArgentinaANNEX A

<u>Project No.</u>	(References are given after each project to the relevant entry in Volume VI of the 'Informe Preliminar Regional' drawn up by the Inter American Bank. A copy of this is in Buenos Aires Chancery Library).	<u>I.D.B. ref.</u>
1	Cabra Corral Project	(No.1)
2	National Centre of Hydraulic Studies and Applied Hydrology, Ezeiza (Province of Buenos Aires)	(No.2)
3	Atucha Nuclear Centre	(No.6)
4	Rural Electrification Project	(No.7)
5	Expansion and Improvement of the System of Generation, Transmission and Distribution of Electricity in Greater Buenos Aires	(No.8)
6	Corrientes-Barranqueras (Chaco Province) Bridge	(No.10)
7	Santa Fé-Paraná Subfluvial Tunnel	(No.11)
8	Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia) - Yacuiba (Argentine) Gasoduct	(No.21)
9	Road Building and Improvement	(No.12)
10	The River Gualeguay Basin Project (Province of Entre Rios)	(No.22)
11	Canal linking the Port of Buenos Aires and the River Paraná de Las Palmas	(No.23)
12	The Ibera Project	(No.41)
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PROJECTS IN EXECUTION

No. 1

Cabra Corral Project (Province of Salta)

(Project responsibility of Agua y Energía Eléctrica)

The primary purpose of the Cabra Corral project which involves the damming of the river Juramento, is irrigation in the Provinces of Salta and Santiago del Estero and the provision of energy for Salta, Tucumán and Jujuy. The total area to be irrigated is 72,500 hectares. The installed energy capacity will be 450,000 KW. Transmission lines will be built to Salta and Jujuy to the north and to Metán and Tucumán to the south.

The total cost of the project was estimated in 1962 at US\$ 47.8 million of which US\$ 16.2 million are for the irrigation works and US\$ 31.6 million for the energy installations. Agua y Energía are providing US\$ 8 million for the work which has now reached the stage of construction of the dam.

No. 2

National Centre of Hydraulic Studies and Applied Hydrology,Ezeiza (Province of Buenos Aires)

(Project responsibility of Secretariat of Public Works)

This project is being carried out under the auspices of the Argentine Government, the U.N.D.P. and UNESCO. A plan of operations for the setting up of the Centre was drawn up between these 3 bodies in September 1968. The Centre will be for research, the study of practical problems and the training of experts. The Argentine Government are providing US\$ 1,543,040 and the U.N.D.P. US\$ 1,314,700. Invitations to tender for the construction work are to be issued shortly.

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No. 3Atucha Nuclear Centre

(Project responsibility of Argentine Atomic Energy Commission)

Work on Atucha is being carried out by the German company Siemens. The Centre, when completed, will, with the El Chocón-Cerros Colorados hydro-electric project, meet the increased energy demands of the Buenos Aires-Litoral region after 1972. It will be fuelled by local natural uranium and generate 313 MW of electricity. It is, however, already considerably behind schedule as the Germans have no previous experience of building this size of plant abroad.

No. 4Rural Electrification Project

(Project responsibility of Banco de la Nación Argentina and Dirección Nacional de Energía y Combustibles)

A programme of rural electrification is being carried out in the Provinces of Buenos Aires, Santa Fé, Entre Rios, Chaco, Córdoba and Rio Negro, all of which, except for the latter, come within the area of the River Plate Basin. The aim of the scheme is to provide loans to electricity cooperatives and other associations in order that electricity can be provided to rural communities in the most important agricultural, livestock and fruit growing centres of the country. It is planned to provide electricity to 50,000 farms and 350,000 inhabitants of rural communities for the first time.

The total cost of the project was estimated in 1968 to be US\$ 45,500,000. US\$ 15 million of this will be provided by the Inter American Development Bank, US\$ 7,500,000 by the Dirección Nacional de Energía y Combustibles and US\$ 23 million by the Banco de la Nación Argentina. The first requests from electricity co-operatives for loans are currently being considered.

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No. 5

Expansion and Improvement of the System of Generation,
Transmission and Distribution of Electricity in
Greater Buenos Aires

(Project responsibility of Compañía Italo-Argentina de Electricidad, S.A.)

This project includes the installation of two 15 MW gas turbines, 26.2 kilometres of underground transmission lines, 393 kilometres of distribution lines, 232 underground transformers and 95 thousand electricity meters as well as the acquisition of a computer.

The total cost of the project was estimated in 1968 to be US\$ 53,400,000 of which it is hoped that \$15 million will be provided by the Inter American Development Bank, \$21,640,000 by the Compañía Italo Argentina de Electricidad S.A., \$10,720,000 by foreign banks and \$6,940,000 by suppliers credit. The Inter American Development Bank loan was granted in December 1968.

No. 6Corrientes-Barranqueras (Chaco Province) Bridge

(Project responsibility of Dirección Nacional de Vialidad and the Secretaría de Obras Públicas).

At present, the only means of communications between Corrientes and Barranqueras on opposite banks of the Paraná river is a ferry-boat. The construction of this bridge will therefore contribute to the integration of the road transport system of northeastern Argentina with the rest of the country and with Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia.

The total cost of the project was estimated in 1967 to be

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PROJECTS UNDER STUDYNo. 10The River Gualeguay Basin Project(Province of Entre Rios)

(Project responsibility of Secretariat of Works and Public Services of the Province of Entre Rios)

The area of the River Gualeguay basin is approximately 21,000 square kilometres or 26 per cent of the total area of the Mesopotamian Province of Entre Rios. The zone is suitable for agriculture and livestock rearing. The project consists of flood control, irrigation, drainage and energy production. The total area which could be irrigated is 66,000 hectares.

The total cost of the project was estimated in September 1968 to amount to US\$ 6,327,150. Preliminary studies have been carried out by a firm of Consultants.

Comment: Feasibility studies costing about £70-80,000 must now be carried out. If these are put in hand, they may provide a suitable opportunity for British technical assistance.

No. 11Canal linking the Port of Buenos Aires and the RiverParaná de Las Palmas

(Project responsibility of Dirección Nacional de Construcciones Portuarias y Vías Navegables).

The study and design of this project, including experiments at the Hydraulics Research Station, Wallingford, England, were carried out by Sir William Halcrow and Partners and invitations are shortly to be made for tender. The purpose of the canal is to overcome the problems caused by the silting up of the River Plate on account of sediment carried into that river by the

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River Paraná which makes necessary a continual and costly dredging operation and limits access to the Paraná river ports to ships with less than 24 feet draught. Furthermore, to reach those ports, it is necessary at present for ships to make a 167 kilometre detour towards the Uruguayan shore. This project therefore involves the construction of a canal 44 kms. long, 32 feet deep and 128-136 metres wide between the port of Buenos Aires and the River Paraná de Las Palmas passing close to the Argentine shore and thus avoiding the present detour. It will also eliminate the need for much of the dredging work. Complementary to the canal itself will be the construction of a 328 metre wharf in the port of Sa. Pedro and a 616 metre wharf in the port of Rosario (see also Project 31) both with special installations for the loading of cereals and capable of handling of vessels of up to 10,000 tons.

The cost of the project is estimated to be US\$ 58,865,000, US\$ 25.5 of which will be provided by the Inter American Development Bank. It is calculated that the canal will represent an annual saving of US\$ 10,500,000. Work is to be completed within 42 months.

No. 12

The Ibera Project

(Project responsibility of Agua y Energía Eléctrica).

This project aims at turning the marshy land between the rivers Paraná and Uruguay into an enormous artificial lake of 15,730 square kilometres (Lake Ibera). The two rivers will be connected by a canal running into and across lake Ibera from Apipé on the River Paraná and joining up with the River Miriñay, a tributary of the River Ibera. The total length of the inter-connection will be 386 kilometres. The project will include a system of dams and locks.

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The objectives of the project are:

- a) The creation of a new transport system at reduced cost through the interconnection of the basins of the River Paraná and the River Uruguay.
- b) Control of water flows and flood control.
- c) Production of increased hydro-electric power at Apipé (q.v.) and Salto Grande (q.v.).
- d) Reduction of sedimentation of the lower and middle Paraná and Rio de la Plata.

In October 1969 an agreement was signed between the West German and Argentine Governments providing for the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau of Frankfurt to loan 12 million marks in order to finance part of the studies for the project.

Comment: The project is considered by some engineers to be over-ambitious.

No. 13

Rio Perico and Rio Grande Scheme, Province of Jujuy

(Project responsibility of Agua y Energía Eléctrica).

The scheme consists of a dam at Las Maderas, not far from the city of Jujuy, two subsidiary dams, two feeder canals, irrigation channels, a hydro-electric plant and power lines. These works will provide irrigation for 40,000 hectares of land which is at present arid and 10,000 hectares of partially irrigated land. The annual production of the hydro-electric plant will be 60,000,000 KWH annually.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be US\$ 13 million. The Argentine Government are granting 12,500,000 of this from the Fondos de Inversión Territorial. Feasibility studies

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The project itself consists of a 500 metre wide dam, 2 hydro-electric stations, one on each side of the river which will have a maximum output of 1020 MW, a road bridge, 2 locks and a navigation canal. The greater part of the energy produced at Salto Grande will be consumed in Buenos Aires and in Montevideo.

The total cost of the project is calculated to be US\$ 500 million. Of this it is planned that 45 per cent should be Argentine and Uruguayan capital and 55 per cent foreign capital. In 1964, the World Bank turned down a request for finance on the grounds of "lack of official diligence on the part of the interested governments". A new approach was made to the Inter American Development Bank in 1968. In a declaration ratified by the Presidents of Uruguay and Argentina in July 1968, it was agreed that the Salto Grande project should begin providing electricity in 1979. To achieve this, financial arrangements should be completed by 1970 and construction should begin in 1972. Technical, economic and financial studies are being carried out at present by the Canadian consultants Acres International and their Argentine associates. Studies have been carried out in the past by French, German and Italian consultants.

No. 19

Electrical Interconnection of Acaray (Paraguay) and
Misiones (Argentina)

(Project responsibility of Electricidad de Misiones S.A.)

This project arises out of the interest shown in 1963 by the Province of Misiones to use part of the energy from the hydro-electric centre of Acaray (Paraguay) on completion of the latter project. It is proposed to install 336 kilometres of power lines

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necessary due to the fact that ships of more than 33 feet draught (including modern tankers and grain carriers) are unable to navigate in the River Plate. It is maintained that this raises the costs of both exports and imports. Major storage depots for coal and oil would also be constructed. The overall effect of the port would almost certainly be to extend the present Buenos Aires-Rosario industrial belt southward.

A pre-feasibility study has been started recently at Cape San Antonio by a combined group of American and Argentine consulting engineers (Frederick Harris Engineering Co., R. Nathan Association and Ingenieros Consultores Asociados, Amaya, Devoto, Lanusse, Martin y Piores). It is not expected that construction work would begin at the earliest for at least 3 years and present plans are for the port to be fully operational by 1990. If Cape San Antonio is chose as the site, construction costs are likely to be very high due to the marshy terrain.

Comment.

The Uruguayan authorities are watching the development of proposals for the construction of a deep water port at Cape San Antonio with concern since plans already exist for turning Montevideo into the chief port of the River Plate area. The more "integrationalist" minded Argentine officials concerned with the River Plate Basin admit that ideally Buenos Aires and Montevideo should be developed on a complementary basis and that if this occurred a third port would be unnecessary. It seems likely however that political and strategic factors will result in this argument being ignored.

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No. 23

Colón-Paysandú Bridge

(Project responsibility of Comisión Técnica Argentino-Uruguayo para el Estudio del Puente entre Colón y Paysandú).

The project consists of the construction of an 800 metre wide bridge and 2 viaducts, which will carry gasoducts, oleoducts and electrical cables. The objective is to link the Mesopotamian region of Argentina with Uruguay and Southern Brazil. It was announced in February 1970 that the bridge was to include a railway connection.

Invitations to tender have been called for and will be received on 20 June, 1970. Work on the project is to be completed by 30 December 1972. The last estimate of the total cost was US\$ 6,400,000. This does not include the railway connection.

No. 24

Fray Bentos/Puerto Unzue Project

(Project responsibility of "Comisión Mixta de los Puentes entre la Argentina y Uruguay" dependent on the Foreign Ministries of both countries).

Agreement to build this bridge was signed by the Argentine and Uruguayan Government in May 1967. In 1969 Hidrosur Argentina were awarded the consultancy work and plans were presented to the 2 governments in January 1970. The project itself will replace the present ferryboat service across the Uruguay river. It is planned that the bridge should be for road traffic only although

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the feasibility of rail traffic is also to be studied. The project will serve as a further link in the road systems between Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil.

The cost of the project has not yet been worked out but it has been agreed that Argentina should pay for two thirds and Uruguay for one-third. It is hoped to obtain financial assistance from the Inter American Development Bank.

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STUDIES AND RESEARCHNo. 25Elaboration of an Integrated DevelopmentPlan for the Paraná Delta

(Project responsibility of the Ministry of Economy of the Province of Buenos Aires.)

The main objective of this study is to find a means of incorporating into the main stream of the economy of the Province of Buenos Aires, the Paraná Delta, an important zone of 2,700 square kilometres close to Buenos Aires but criss-crossed by rivers which up until the present has made its rational exploitation almost impossible. The study which will cost about US\$ 123,000 is being paid for by the Government of the Province of Buenos Aires.

No. 26Pilot Project for Agricultural Development in theParaná Delta

(Project responsibility of National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA)).

This pilot project which is closely connected with project 27 consists of the setting up of an experimental farm of 1,800 hectares, which takes into account the special characteristics of the region.

No decision has yet been taken as to whether or not to go ahead with the study.

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No. 27

Study for the Improvement of Navigation on the River
Paraná

(Project responsibility of the Dirección Nacional de Construcciones Portuarias y Vías de Navegación).

This project involves an analysis of the engineering and other measures necessary in the River Paraná to secure the maximum use of its economic potential. The project covers a stretch of the Paraná river 1,125 kilometres long, from the mouth of the Paraná Bravo, north of Buenos Aires, to the juncture with the River Paraguay.

The study is the first of a series of studies which it is hoped eventually to carry out throughout the River Plate Basin. Work will include the collection of data, the formulation of recommendations and the training of personnel. The U.N.D.P. are providing US\$ 844,000 dollars for the study, including the services of experts, equipment and scholarships. The Argentine Government are contributing US\$ 1,238,000. Consulting engineers to carry out the project have not yet been appointed.

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No. 28German-Argentine Agreement for the Investigation
of Subterranean Waters

(Project the responsibility of Dirección Nacional de Geología y Minería).

This project arises out of the technical cooperation agreement between Argentina and the German Federal Republic signed in 1965. The German Government are to carry out a study of subterranean waters in a zone east of the River Paraná. Eventually this could lead to the exploitation of these waters both for irrigation and other uses. The German Government are providing 9 experts and equipment, as well as technical assistance for a period of 26/36 months. The total cost of the project is US\$ 1,800,000, of which the German and Argentine Governments are providing US\$ 900,000 each. Work began in April, 1969.

No. 29Hydrographic Survey of the River Plate

(Project responsibility of the Servicio de Hidrografía Naval de la Armada Argentina and Comisión Mixta Argentino-Uruguayo para el Plan de Levantamiento Integral del Rio de la Plata).

This project was to have included hydrographic, geological, geophysical and geographical studies of the River Plate area. These are important in view of the need to improve access to Buenos Aires and the river ports through which the vast majority of the country's imports and exports flow. Navigation, water supplies, sewage disposal, fishing, the positioning of island airports and other problems were also to have been studied as part of the survey.

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No. 31Planning of new port at Rosario

(Project responsibility of Dirección Nacional de Construcciones Portuarias y Vias Navegables).

The aim of the project is to restore Rosario's position as a grain exporting and machine importing port.

Tenders have been called for and are to be opened on 6 March 1970. The total cost of the work has been budgeted at US\$ 2,732,178.

OTHER PROJECTS

A number of other projects have been proposed by various private and public bodies for the development of the River Plate Basin. As there is little prospect of most of these being executed in the near future, they are not listed below. Two of these projects were, however, commended in the Act of Santa Cruz de la Sierra in May 1968. They are:

No. 32Frontal Dykes on the Middle Paraná

(Project responsibility of Agua y Energía Eléctrica).

The project aims at the regulation of the Paraná River between Resistencia and Rosario. It will consist of the construction of various dams, weirs, dykes, locks and a hydro-electric station. In this way it is hoped to generate electricity to improve navigation and eventually to provide irrigation.

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The cost of the project was calculated in 1961 to be US\$ 180 million. No studies have been carried out and it is unlikely that any decision will be taken on the project at least until other studies of the Paraná River have been completed. (See for instance Project No. 27).

No. 33

Regulation of the Pilcomayo Basin

This project, first conceived in 1941, is of interest to Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay. Its purpose is the generation of electricity, the improvement of river navigation and irrigation.

February, 1970

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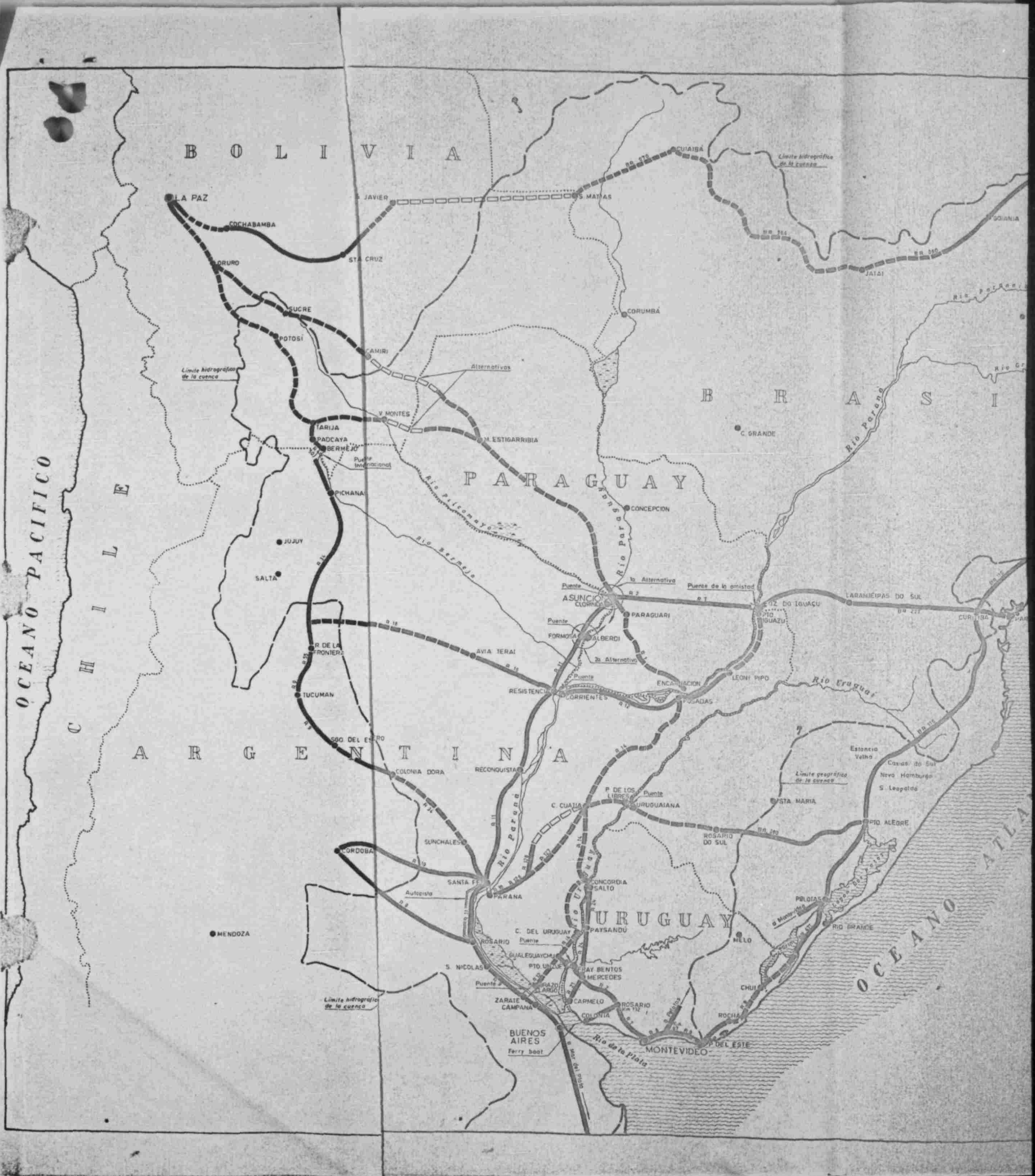
ANNEX B

M A P S

- (1) System of Communications proposed for River Plate Basin.
- (2) Principle Hydraulic projects proposed for River Plate Basin.

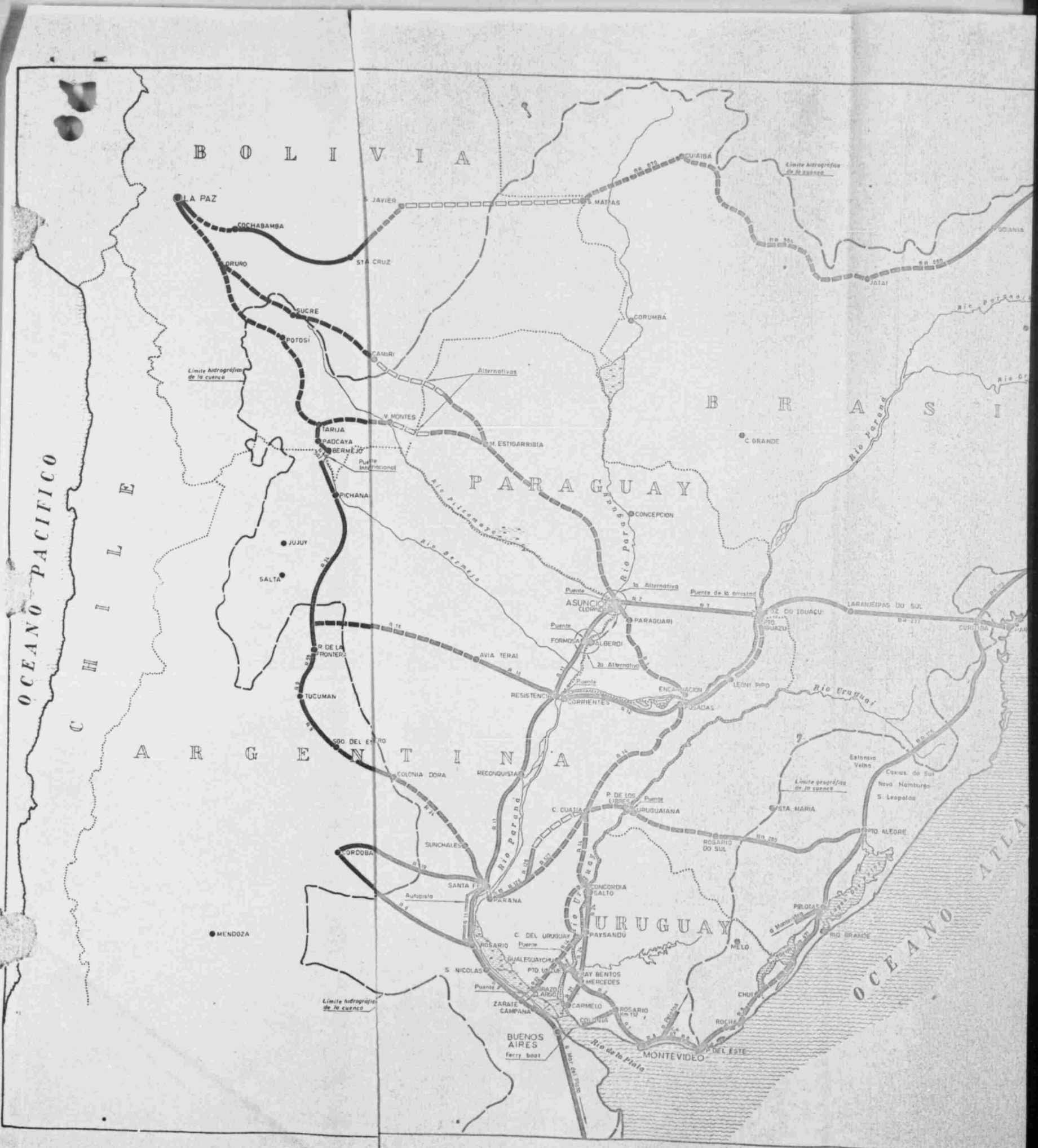
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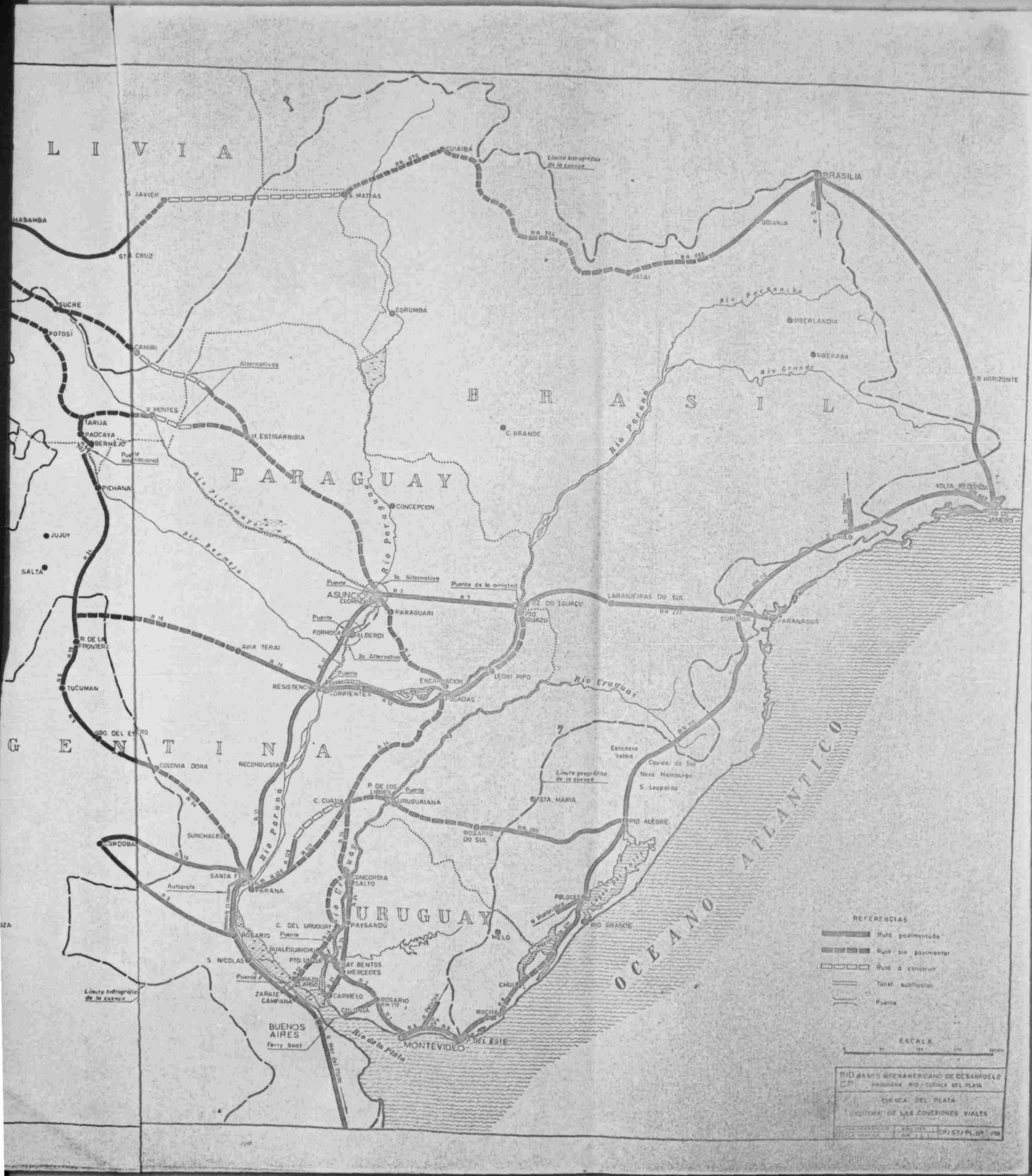


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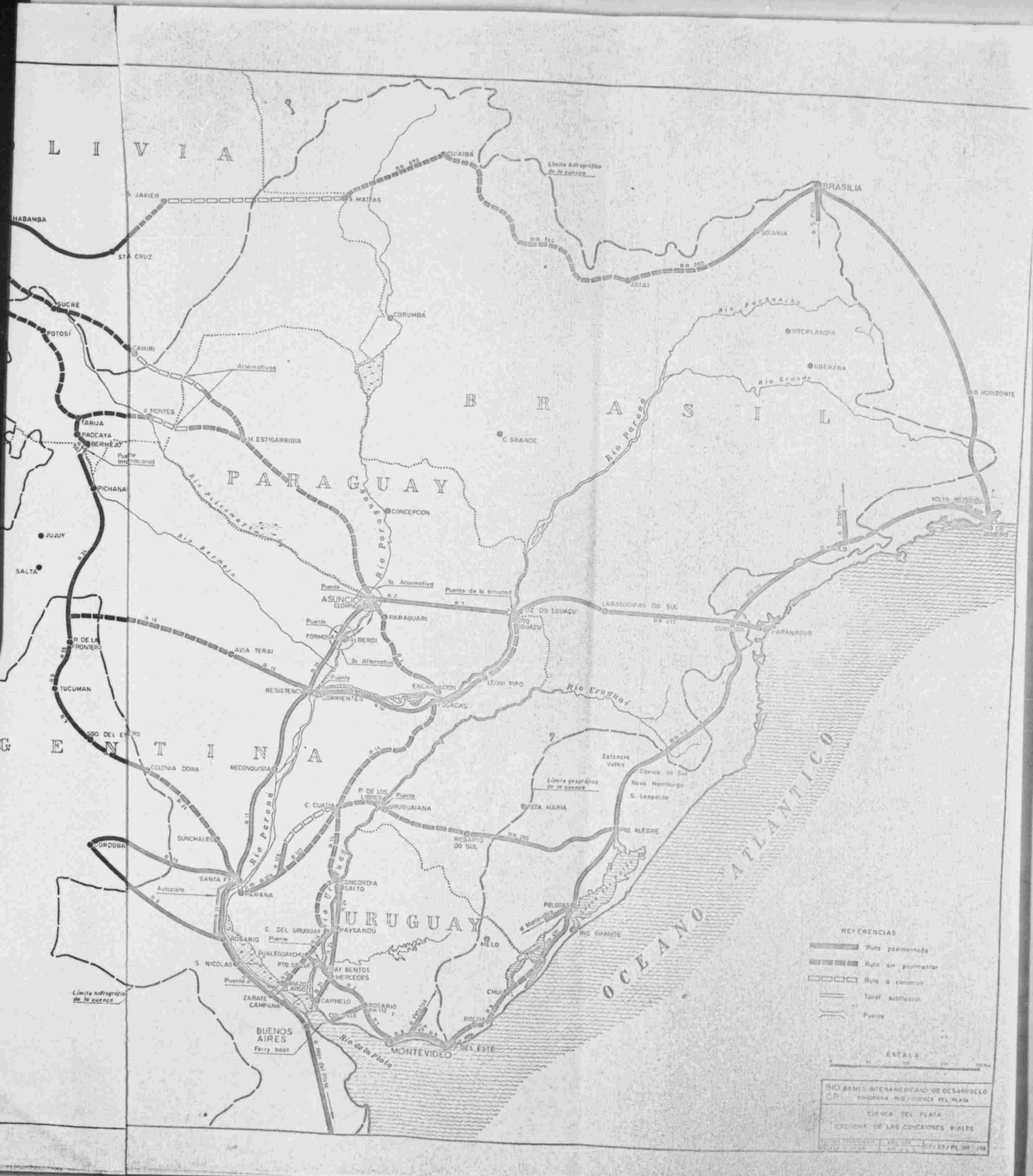
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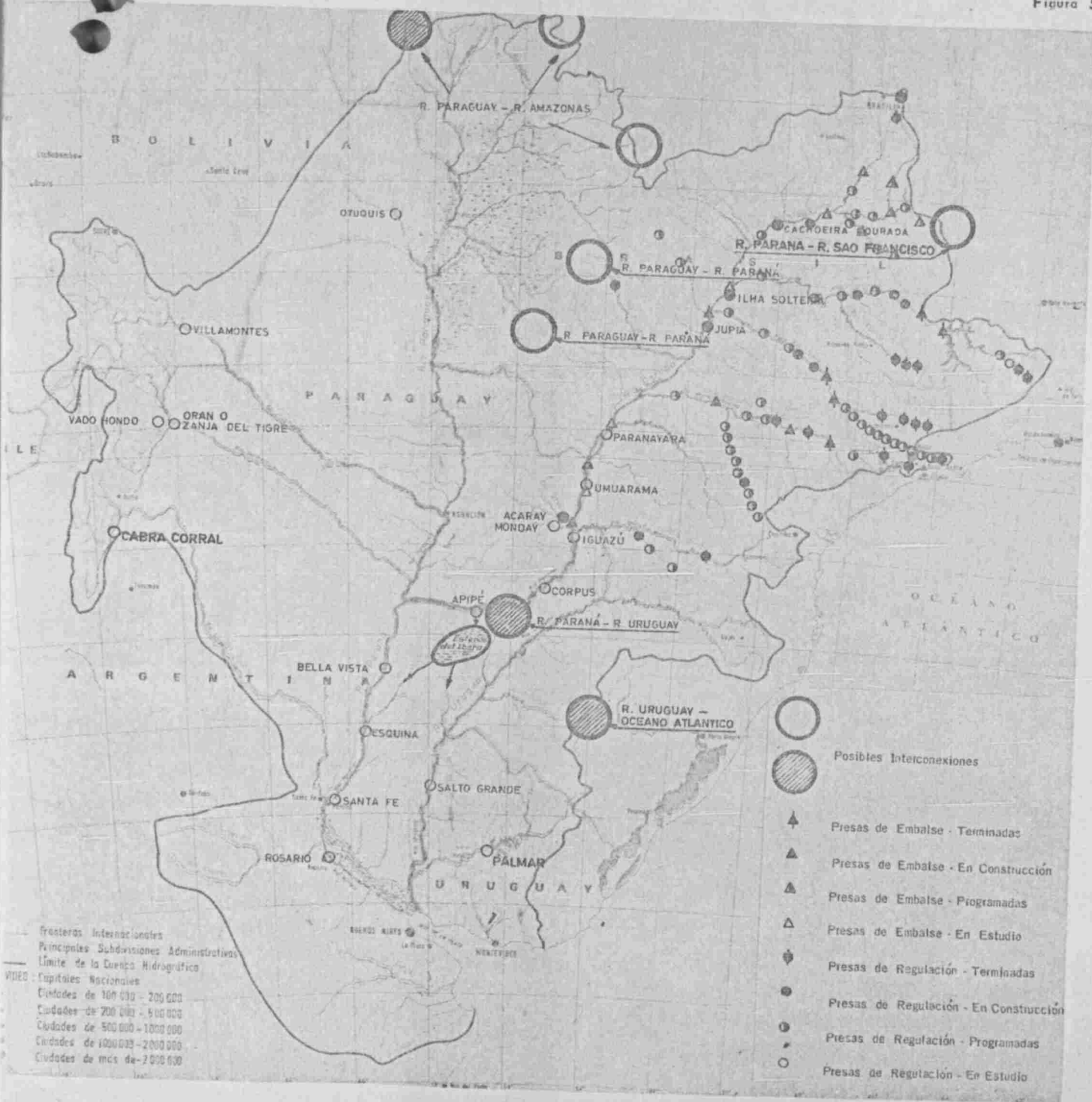
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 Ruta pavimentada
 Ruta sin pavimentar
 Ruta a canonar
 Tonal subterránea
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RIO BANCO INTERAMERICANO DE DESARROLLO
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PRINCIPALES PROYECTOS HIDRAULICOS

Figura 5



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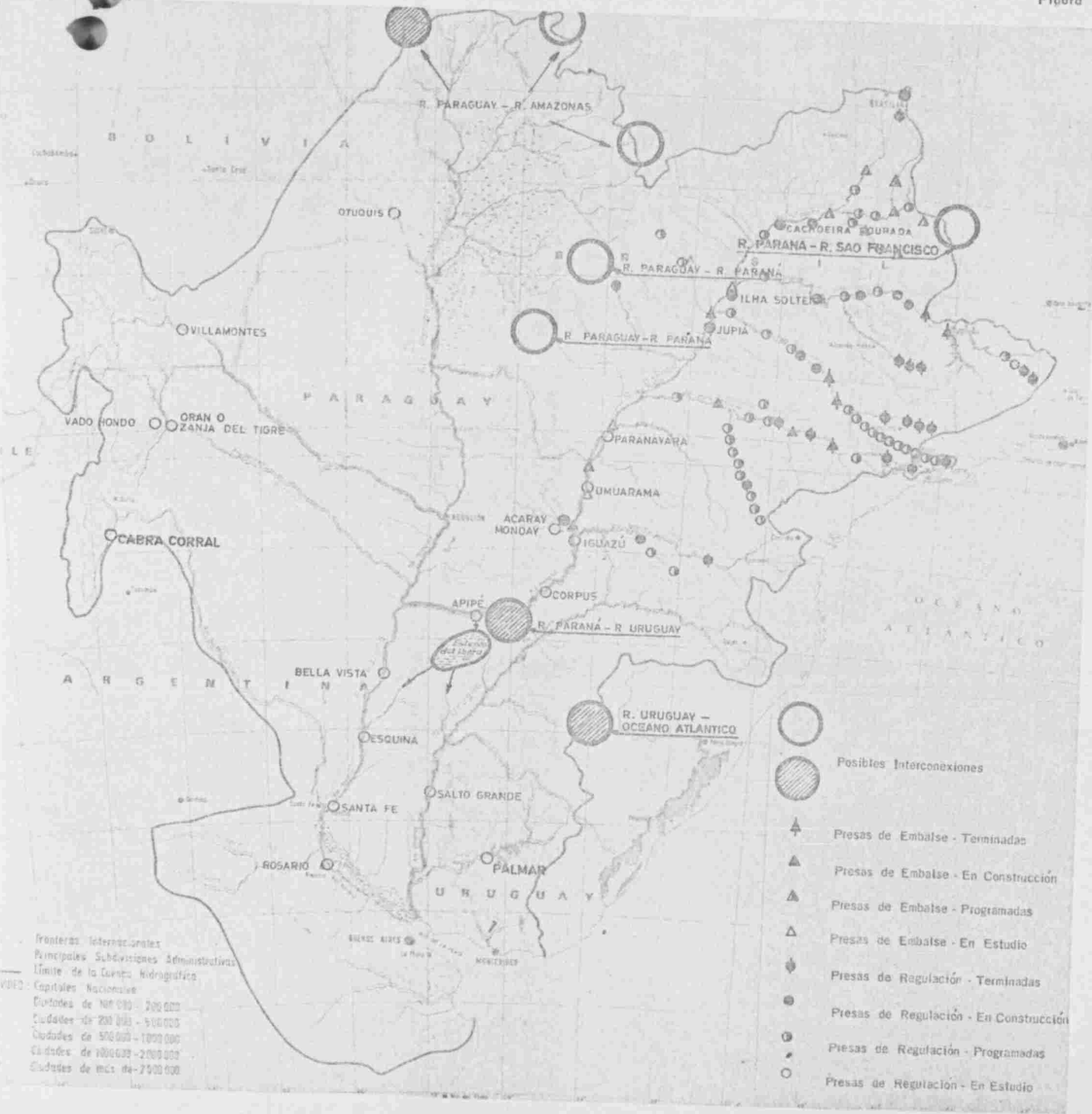
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PRINCIPALES PROYECTOS HIDRAULICOS

Figura 5



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RESTRICTEDArgentina and the River Plate BasinSummary

The development of the great economic potential of the River Plate Basin by Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay is gathering momentum. (Paragraph 1)

2. A Memorandum describing Argentina's role in the Group together with a description of all projects either proposed or being carried out in Argentina within the framework of the Basin is enclosed with this despatch. (Paragraph 2)

3. In creating a sound economic infrastructure the Group may pave the way for closer economic and political ties. (Paragraph 3)

4. The development of the Basin offers considerable commercial possibilities for Britain. (Paragraph 4)

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10 MAR 1970

BRITISH EMBASSY,
 BUENOS AIRES.
 26 February, 1970.

(2/4)

Sir,

Argentina and the River Plate Basin

The great economic potential of the River Plate Basin has long been recognised and during the past thirty years there have been a series of attempts to get the five riparian countries - Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay - to co-operate in its development. It was only in 1967, however, that the first really positive step was taken when, under the influence of the Inter-American Development Bank, the five countries met in Buenos Aires and set up a co-ordinating committee (as reported in Sir Michael Creswell's despatch number 10 of the 6th of March, 1967). Since then, the development of the River Plate Basin has begun to gather momentum.

2. The present Argentine Government clearly accept the importance of harnessing the potential of the River Plate Basin and have already put in hand a number of ambitious schemes within the region. I now have the

The Right Honourable
 Michael Stewart, C.H., M.P.,

Etc., etc., etc.

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RESTRICTED

--- honour to enclose a Memorandum, largely the work of
my Second Secretary, Mr. Martin, which discusses the
main features of the development programme and
--- includes an Annex summarising the projects which are
at present being carried out or which have been
proposed. Obviously there will be delays and
failures; perhaps some of the projects will be
abandoned; there are many problems, notably those
created by shortages of finance and of human resources,
to be overcome. Nevertheless, the prospects are
that much will be achieved during the next few years,
and that the north and, in particular, the north east
of Argentina will be transformed. The
"Mesopotamian" provinces of Entre Rios, Corrientes
and Misiones, until recently isolated from the rest of
the country by great rivers, will be connected by rapid
communications both with the main centres of economic
activity in Argentina and with the neighbouring
countries of Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil. Increased
energy supplies from the projected hydro-electric
schemes will make industrialisation a practical
possibility whilst the improvement of irrigation will
greatly benefit agriculture.

3. In the long term, the co-operative development by
the riparian states of the River Plate Basin could bring

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still wider benefits in terms of increased economic and political integration of the region. There are, of course, strong nationalist feelings among the members of the group (as evidenced by the halting progress which is being achieved in the creation of a Latin American Free Trade Area) and the five countries are at pains to ensure that their co-operation does not impair their national sovereignty. There is reason to hope, however, that, in creating the economic infrastructure, the Basin development scheme will prepare the ground for closer ties.

4. For Britain the River Plate development projects offer considerable commercial possibilities. Our competitors are already in the field and it is important that we are not left behind. I hope that the information contained in the Memorandum and in its unclassified Annex can be put to good use by British contractors. We shall ensure that it is kept up-to-date.

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MEMORANDUM

Argentina and the River Plate Basin

One of the most ambitious of the various riparian development schemes now in progress is that of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay to develop the River Plate Basin.

Comprising an area of 3,200,000 sq. kms. (Approximately the size of India) the basin embraces four major waterways - the Plate, the Paraná, the Paraguay and the Uruguay rivers (see maps at Annex B). It contains a population of more than 53 million persons and includes in its area such major cities as Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo, Montevideo and Rosario, as well as the capital cities of Sucre (Bolivia) and Asunción (Paraguay). Some 37% of the territory of Argentina, 19% of Bolivia, 17% of Brazil, all of Paraguay and 80% of Uruguay lies within the Basin. Of the total, 44% lies in Brazil, 32% in Argentina, 13% in Paraguay, 6% in Bolivia and 5% in Uruguay. The region is richly endowed with natural resources, having great areas of cultivable lands, vast forest reserves, an abundance of minerals and great potential for the generation of electric power.

2. In this memorandum we consider the role and interest of Argentina in the development of the Basin, although this inevitably involves discussing to some extent the part being played by the other four member states. By reason of its geographical position, Argentina is the key member and the group would be inconceivable without its membership. Furthermore, Buenos Aires can claim to be the de facto capital of the Basin since both the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee and the regional office of the Inter American Development Bank (which is providing much of the finance for individual projects) have their headquarters there. In view of their commercial importance, a full list of projects being carried out or planned in Argentina

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--- within the framework of the Basin are attached at Annex A.

3. The aim of the member states of the Group is to create the economic and communications infrastructure which will enable the potential resources of the Basin to be exploited. It is hoped that this infrastructure will eventually give impetus to the creation of an effective Latin American Free Trade Association (L.A.F.T.A.). If, on the other hand, the concept of L.A.F.T.A. founders on the rocks of political difficulties and economic rivalries, some Argentine officials think (perhaps unrealistically) the Basin could still provide the nucleus of a viable alternative for the Argentine economy by leading to some form of regional customs union of a more limited scope between the countries of the Basin. If Argentina is to become fully industrialised and able to compete on equal terms with the developed countries, she must have access to a much larger market than her own population of less than 25 million. Under the Basin development scheme, each country continues to exercise fully sovereignty over its territory and all of them strongly resist any suggestion that the programme is a first step towards political integration.

4. The development of the River Plate Basin was first mooted at the "Conferencia Regional del Plata" held in Montevideo in 1941. The only result at the time was to reach an agreement on identity documents which still enables Argentines to travel to Uruguay without a passport. The Second World War intervened and the idea was dropped until 1957 when a conference was held to discuss it. On this occasion, however, Argentina strongly opposed any such scheme on the grounds that every country must have complete freedom to exercise sovereignty over its own rivers. The idea was again shelved until 9 years later when, in 1966, President Illia declared that he was in favour of the integrated development and organisation of the Basin. This reversal of policy was largely due to the influence of the Institute for the Integration of Latin America (INTAL) established in Buenos Aires in 1965 as a branch of the Inter American Development Bank.

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Sheridan pointed out in his memorandum accompanying Sir John Russell's despatch (2/25) of 15 May, 1969, although the spirit of the Brasilia Conference was one of outward cooperation and harmony, this smooth facade hid a mass of divergent national interests. The original idea of INTAL had been that a strong central organisation would work out and co-ordinate projects, treating the Basin as a whole. This, in view of the nationalist aspirations existing in each country, was wildly optimistic. At Santa Cruz de la Sierra it became clear that the "integrationalist" function of the Basin would be chiefly provided by separate national projects creating a common infrastructure. A further blow to the INTAL line of thinking was given at the same time when the Foreign Ministers rejected a proposal that the international organisations concerned should act as a secretariat to the group. The result is inevitably that each member nation is pursuing its own policies within the group and that there is little or no consultation or co-ordination. (See for instance the conflicting schemes for port development in Uruguay and Argentina, Annex A, Project 22). Ideally co-ordination would be carried out by the Inter-Governmental Co-ordinating Committee in Buenos Aires, but the latter is little more than a standing diplomatic conference, meeting irregularly and with only a small non-technical permanent staff.

7. An acrimonious dispute amongst member states has sprung from a quarrel over Brazil's ambitious hydro-electric projects, which were planned without consulting users lower down the Paraná river. The problem was first raised at inter-governmental level at the Santa Cruz de la Sierra Conference, the final act of which recommended that the Coordinating Committee draft a statute on the use and administration of the water resources of the Basin. Their task proved however to be an impossible one in the face of Brazilian refusal to discuss the juridical points involved prior

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to analysing the technical and economic aspects of each project. There seems no doubt that the aim of the Brazilian position has been to block Argentine and Uruguayan efforts to secure the principle of prior consultation and compensation, where Brazilian projects are likely to affect users of lower stretches of the Paraná river. It was on this point that a meeting of experts held in Rio de Janeiro in August 1969 broke down.

8. The question has been exacerbated by some Argentine engineers maintaining that the filling up of the Jupia Dam in Brazil has been the direct cause of a difference from normal of the theoretical level of the Paraná river below the Argentine port of Santa Fé of as much as 2.10 metres. These claims were taken up by the former Argentine Vice President Admiral Rojas who has conducted a forceful campaign in the Argentine press and in a book he has published against the Brazilian attitude. In fact, Argentine officials are willing to admit privately that the drop in the water level of the Lower Paraná at the present moment is due to natural phenomena completely unrelated to Jupia. They are nevertheless concerned that the much larger Brazilian hydro-electric projects planned at Ilha Solteira, Sete Quedas and Guayra will have a marked effect on the level of the river which could seriously restrict access of large ocean going vessels to the ports of Rosario and Santa Fé.

9. The practical effects of the dispute with Brazil on Argentina's attitude to Basin projects may yet be considerable. It has been suggested for instance that the Apipé and Salto Grande projects (Annex A, projects 17 and 18) are being kept to the forefront as arguments to prevent the Brazilians from gaining too much control of the waters for hydro-electric schemes higher up in the main rivers. In fact, Salto Grande at least is quite high in Argentina's

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list of priorities but the fact that remarks of this kind are being made is significant. Similarly, a proposed "Mathematical Model of the River Plate Basin" (Annex A, project 30) which one British engineer has told us he considers as totally impractical will, according to General Spiegel the President of the Argentine Commission for the River Plate Basin, be "an important instrument for the evaluation of the modifications that the system of works constructed above Iguazú (i.e. in Brazil) might have on the natural order" It is tempting to wonder how influential this factor was in securing approval for the project.

10. The dispute between Argentina and Brazil is undoubtedly the most serious which the Basin has had to face and Argentine officials say that if it is solved considerable impetus will be given to the scheme. Hopes of arriving at some agreement have in fact been raised recently by approval in the Coordinating Committee of a new Uruguayan agenda which will enable the experts whose discussions were broken off at Rio de Janeiro to meet again within a month or two. The Argentines refuse to be too optimistic and accept that progress is likely to be slow but they point out, nevertheless, that in less than three years considerable headway has been made on many institutional problems connected with the group. This is no small achievement for 5 countries, which, as often as not, during their history, have been at loggerheads with each other.

11. The difficulties which the countries of the River Plate Basin group still face are tremendous but this should not obscure the potential importance of the project. Within a timescale of 30-50 years (probably less if account is taken of the acceleration of progress in the twentieth century) the Basin could become a highly prosperous agricultural and industrial region. Already, important steps have been taken towards physical integration within the Argentine sector of the Basin and the foundations are being laid

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for the creation of a sound economic infrastructure. Argentine projects at present in execution can be grouped under four headings (1) Energy, (2) Irrigation and drainage, (3) Road and bridge construction, (4) Improvement of the River and Port systems. The details of these are given in Annex A and it would be tedious to repeat them here. As yet the number of projects actually being carried out is very limited but a great many more have reached the stage of feasibility studies and it is likely that during the 1970s many of these will be started. The prospects for the Mesopotamian region of Argentina (the Provinces of Entre Rios, Corrientes and Misiones) until recently joined to the rest of the country by a system of largely antiquated ferry boats are already being transformed by the recently inaugurated subfluvial tunnel between Santa Fé-Paraná (Annex A, Project 7) and the construction of the Corrientes-Barranqueras bridge Annex A, Project 6). The Zárate-Brazo Largo Complex (Annex A, Project 21) tenders for which are at present under consideration will complete this trilogy. 15% of Argentina's cattle production and 7% of its agricultural production are from the Mesopotamian region yet it has been said that the River Paraná forms the boundary between advanced agrarian exploitations and traditional forms of subsistence farming. Improved communications will join these provinces once and for all to the markets of the rest of the country and eventually to those of Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil.

12. At the beginning of this memorandum it was pointed out that the aim of the River Plate Basin at least in the view of the Argentine Government is physical integration. There are therefore no proposals for the granting of preferential tariffs beyond those negotiated within the framework of LAFTA. (It is specifically stated in the Act of Santa Cruz de la Sierra that "The Treaty of Montevideo will be taken into account in the setting up of industries

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and in the adoption of complementary industrial agreements"). It would nevertheless be clearly illogical to create an elaborate economic **infrastructure** without attempting to reconcile and complement regional economies isolated at present by national frontiers. A number of special studies are therefore proposed of various frontier regions within the River Plate Basin. The first of these studies as far as Argentina is concerned, is of the possibility of complementing the economies of Southern Bolivia and Northern Argentina. This is being carried out by the Argentine State Planning Council (CONADE), the Bolivian Government and the Inter American Development Bank and is nearing completion. A second study is to be made of the region of the Lower Uruguay River. Preparatory work is expected to begin next year and a request will probably be made to the Inter American Development Bank for finance. The study was approved by the Presidents of Argentina and Uruguay following the visit of Dr. Pacheco Areco to Buenos Aires in July 1968 (Sir M. Creswell's despatch of 24 July (3/10/(2))). Projects to be included are the Salto Grande complex (Annex A, project 18), the Fray Bentos - Puerto Unzué bridge (Annex A, Project 24) as well as the proposed interconnection of the electricity supply systems of Argentina and Uruguay (Annex A, Project 20).

13. The opportunities which are being given and will be offered to foreign enterprise to take part in the development of the Basin are considerable. Argentina will need both technical knowhow and capital if the many ambitious projects which are planned are to be brought to fruition. It has been mentioned that most of the feasibility studies being carried out at present are being financed by loans and grants from the Inter American Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme. Other projects are receiving support from bilateral aid funds. The West Germans have been particularly active in the latter field. Herr Willy Brandt who as West German

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14. West German activity in the Basin has been listed at some length to give an idea of the kind of competition that British contractors and finance houses interested in the scheme are likely to encounter. There is no doubt that they should be interested as for years to come the projects planned are likely to provide a rich vein of opportunities. We ourselves are very much on the look out for studies which can be carried out at least in part with British technical assistance funds, a tactic which the West Germans have used to good advantage. One possibility worth keeping an eye on is the Gualeguay Basin project (Annex A, Project 10). We have recently submitted to the Ministry of Overseas Development proposals from the Argentine State Planning Council (CONADE) to assist with a study of dredging in the River Plate important in the context of keeping open the shipping channels to the port of Buenos Aires. The British consulting engineers, Sir W. Halcrow & Partners, who maintain an office in Buenos Aires, are well placed to carry out studies in the improvement of river navigation and recently completed the study and design of a channel connecting Buenos Aires with the River Paraná de Las Palmas (Annex A, Project 11). In the early stages of the study two experts from the Hydraulics Laboratory at Wallingford visited Buenos Aires under Technical Assistance auspices. Britain has won contracts for equipment for the Corrientes-Barranqueras bridge (Annex A, Project 6) and negotiations are at present taking place which may lead to considerable British participation in the Zarate-Braza Largo complex (Annex A, Project 21).

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15. It is true that the financial and technical aspects of many of the projects which have been proposed within the framework of the Basin have not always been carefully worked out. It is indeed a South American characteristic to elaborate pharaonic schemes costing enormous sums of money which on closer examination turn out to be totally uneconomic. A good example of this is the original plan for the development of the Rio Bermejo (Annex A, Project 16). Most schemes of this kind, unless there is some slender chance of their being carried out, have not however been included in Annex A. Details of them are available in Volume 6 of the Inter American Bank's Report referred to and it is a sign of the realism of the officials concerned with the River Plate Basin scheme that they have been assigned there to a separate appendix in the realisation that they are of little more than academic interest. Even then, many engineers would cast considerable doubts on the feasibility of projects such as Apipé and Ibera (Annex A, Projects 17 & 12).

16. It would be completely wrong, however, to adopt a negative attitude towards the Basin and to dismiss the whole scheme as another example of the folly of Latin American Governments. It is true that in the past, political instability has led to individual projects being treated as political pawns (one result of this being that there have been four feasibility studies for the Salto Grande development) (Annex A, Project 18). Renewed political instability, it is certain, would be a serious setback for the Basin. Nevertheless, the progress which has been made in the 3 years since the Group came into existence is such that it would be difficult for any government to put the scheme

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into reverse. Our own interest is clear. The greater the attention which Britain is able to pay to the development of the River Plate Basin, the more likely we are to benefit from the many commercial opportunities which will arise from it.

February, 1970

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River Plate Basin Projects - ArgentinaANNEX A

<u>Project No.</u>	(References are given after each project to the relevant entry in Volume VI of the 'Informe Preliminar Regional' drawn up by the Inter American Bank. A copy of this is in Buenos Aires Chancery Library).	<u>I.D.B. ref.</u>
1	Cabra Corral Project	(No.1)
2	National Centre of Hydraulic Studies and Applied Hydrology, Ezeiza (Province of Buenos Aires)	(No.2)
3	Atucha Nuclear Centre	(No.6)
4	Rural Electrification Project	(No.7)
5	Expansion and Improvement of the System of Generation, Transmission and Distribution of Electricity in Greater Buenos Aires	(No.8)
6	Corrientes-Barranqueras (Chaco Province) Bridge	(No.10)
7	Santa Fé-Paraná Subfluvial Tunnel	(No.11)
8	Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia) - Yacuiba (Argentine) Gasoduct	(No.21)
9	Road Building and Improvement	(No.12)
10	The River Gualeguay Basin Project (Province of Entre Rios)	(No.22)
11	Canal linking the Port of Buenos Aires and the River Paraná de Las Palmas	(No.23)
12	The Ibera Project	(No.41)
13	Rio Perico and Rio Grande Scheme, Province of Jujuy	(No.26)
14	Feasibility Study of New Access Canal to the Port of La Plata (Province of Buenos Aires)	(No.27)
15	Drainage of the Arroyo Monje-Cañada Carrizales Basin (Province of Santa Fé)	(No.28)
16	Rio Bermejo Project	(No.37)
17	Islas Yacyreta and Apipé Project	(No.38)
18	Salto Grande Project	(No.39)
19	Electrical Interconnection of Acaray (Paraguay) and Misiones (Argentina)	(No.43)
20	Study of the Interconnection of the Electricity Supply Systems of Argentina and Uruguay	(No.44)

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PROJECTS IN EXECUTION

No. 1

Cabra Corral Project (Province of Salta)

(Project responsibility of Agua y Energía Eléctrica)

The primary purpose of the Cabra Corral project which involves the damming of the river Juramento, is irrigation in the Provinces of Salta and Santiago del Estero and the provision of energy for Salta, Tucumán and Jujuy. The total area to be irrigated is 72,500 hectares. The installed energy capacity will be 450,000 KW. Transmission lines will be built to Salta and Jujuy to the north and to Metán and Tucumán to the south.

The total cost of the project was estimated in 1962 at US\$ 47.8 million of which US\$ 16.2 million are for the irrigation works and US\$ 31.6 million for the energy installations. Agua y Energía are providing US\$ 8 million for the work which has now reached the stage of construction of the dam.

No. 2

National Centre of Hydraulic Studies and Applied Hydrology,Ezeiza (Province of Buenos Aires)

(Project responsibility of Secretariat of Public Works)

This project is being carried out under the auspices of the Argentine Government, the U.N.D.P. and UNESCO. A plan of operations for the setting up of the Centre was drawn up between these 3 bodies in September 1968. The Centre will be for research, the study of practical problems and the training of experts. The Argentine Government are providing US\$ 1,543,040 and the U.N.D.P. US\$ 1,314,700. Invitations to tender for the construction work are to be issued shortly.

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No. 3

Atucha Nuclear Centre

(Project responsibility of Argentine Atomic Energy Commission)

Work on Atucha is being carried out by the German company Siemens. The Centre, when completed, will, with the El Chocón-Cerros Colorados hydro-electric project, meet the increased energy demands of the Buenos Aires-Litoral region after 1972. It will be fuelled by local natural uranium and generate 313 MW of electricity. It is, however, already considerably behind schedule as the Germans have no previous experience of building this size of plant abroad.

No. 4

Rural Electrification Project

(Project responsibility of Banco de la Nación Argentina and Dirección Nacional de Energía y Combustibles)

A programme of rural electrification is being carried out in the Provinces of Buenos Aires, Santa Fé, Entre Rios, Chaco, Córdoba and Rio Negro, all of which, except for the latter, come within the area of the River Plate Basin. The aim of the scheme is to provide loans to electricity cooperatives and other associations in order that electricity can be provided to rural communities in the most important agricultural, livestock and fruit growing centres of the country. It is planned to provide electricity to 50,000 farms and 350,000 inhabitants of rural communities for the first time.

The total cost of the project was estimated in 1968 to be US\$ 45,500,000. US\$ 15 million of this will be provided by the Inter American Development Bank, US\$ 7,500,000 by the Dirección Nacional de Energía y Combustibles and US\$ 23 million by the Banco de la Nación Argentina. The first requests from electricity co-operatives for loans are currently being considered.

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No. 5

Expansion and Improvement of the System of Generation,
Transmission and Distribution of Electricity in
Greater Buenos Aires

(Project responsibility of Compañía Italo-Argentina de Electricidad, S.A.)

This project includes the installation of two 15 MW gas turbines, 26.2 kilometres of underground transmission lines, 393 kilometres of distribution lines, 232 underground transformers and 95 thousand electricity meters as well as the acquisition of a computer.

The total cost of the project was estimated in 1968 to be US\$ 53,400,000 of which it is hoped that \$15 million will be provided by the Inter American Development Bank, \$21,640,000 by the Compañía Italo Argentina de Electricidad S.A., \$10,720,000 by foreign banks and \$6,940,000 by suppliers credit. The Inter American Development Bank loan was granted in December 1968.

No. 6Corrientes-Barranqueras (Chaco Province) Bridge

(Project responsibility of Dirección Nacional de Vialidad and the Secretaría de Obras Públicas).

At present, the only means of communications between Corrientes and Barranqueras on opposite banks of the Paraná river is a ferry-boat. The construction of this bridge will therefore contribute to the integration of the road transport system of northeastern Argentina with the rest of the country and with Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia.

The total cost of the project was estimated in 1967 to be

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US\$ 16.97 million of which \$5,720,000 is to be provided by the Inter American Development Bank and \$11,070,000 by the Argentine Government. Work on the project began at the beginning of 1969 and it is hoped to finish it during 1971. Machinery has been purchased from the U.K., the U.S.A., Italy and W. Germany.

No. 7

Santa Fé-Paraná Subfluvial Tunnel

The "Hernandarias" tunnel now connects the Mesopotamian region of northeastern Argentina, hitherto isolated by water, with the economic nucleus of the country and will also speed up international road traffic to Brazil. The project, which has been financed jointly by the Provinces of Entre Rios and Santa Fé and the Argentine Government was completed in December 1969.

Comment: The project was expensive compared with the idea of a suspension bridge further downstream and maintenance costs are very high. A further drawback is that it is still necessary to retain a limited ferry service as lorries carrying explosive materials are not allowed to pass through the tunnel.

No. 8

Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia) Yacuiba (Argentina)

Gasoduct

This 600 kilometre long gasoduct will enable Argentina to purchase from Bolivia from 1970 onwards, 4 million cubic feet of natural gas daily and from 1978 onwards 4.5 million cubic feet daily. The gasoduct will join up with the Campo Durán/Buenos Aires

PROJECTS UNDER STUDYNo. 10The River Gualeguay Basin Project(Province of Entre Rios)

(Project responsibility of Secretariat of Works and Public Services of the Province of Entre Rios)

The area of the River Gualeguay basin is approximately 21,000 square kilometres or 26 per cent of the total area of the Mesopotamian Province of Entre Rios. The zone is suitable for agriculture and livestock rearing. The project consists of flood control, irrigation, drainage and energy production. The total area which could be irrigated is 66,000 hectares.

The total cost of the project was estimated in September 1968 to amount to US\$ 6,327,150. Preliminary studies have been carried out by a firm of Consultants.

Comment: Feasibility studies costing about £70-80,000 must now be carried out. If these are put in hand, they may provide a suitable opportunity for British technical assistance.

No. 11Canal linking the Port of Buenos Aires and the RiverParaná de Las Palmas

(Project responsibility of Dirección Nacional de Construcciones Portuarias y Vías Navegables).

The study and design of this project, including experiments at the Hydraulics Research Station, Wallingford, England, were carried out by Sir William Halcrow and Partners and invitations are shortly to be made for tender. The purpose of the canal is to overcome the problems caused by the silting up of the River Plate on account of sediment carried into that river by the

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leads to the saturation of the soil and to frequent flooding from October until April. The project consists of the construction of a new work of drainage canals which will lead to the improvement of 71,000 square kilometres of valuable agricultural land in the Province of Santa Fé.

Total cost of the project is estimated to be approximately US\$ 5,750,000. The preliminary studies were completed in September 1967.

No. 16

Rio Bermejo Project

(Responsibility of Argentine Comisión Nacional de la Cuenca del Plata).

This joint Argentine-Bolivian project originally involved the damming of the Rio Bermejo, the construction of hydro-electric plants and navigable irrigation canals. It also included the building of port installations in Pichinal (Salta), Resistencia (Chaco) and El Salado (Santa Fé). The works would have covered an area of 15,000 square kilometres.

The total estimated cost of this plan was US\$ 810 million. Geological and topographical studies were carried out and various external bodies approached with a view to seeking finance but without results. It is now admitted by Argentine officials that this ambitious scheme was "Pharaonic". However, the whole project was reconsidered by the Argentine Comisión Nacional de la Cuenca del Plata following commendation of the project in the May 1968 Act of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, and a less ambitious project has been drawn up involving the construction of a dam and irrigation works. The President of the Comisión Nacional de la Cuenca del Plata Gen. Spiegel has indicated that calls for tender could be made in 1971.

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No. 17

Islas Yacyreta and Apipé Project

(Project responsibility of Comisión Mixta Paraguaya/
Argentina de Apipé).

The aim of this project which consists of a navigation canal, a hydro-electric centre, 2 weirs and a small dam is as follows:

- a) To overcome the navigational obstacles of the Apipé Rapids and facilitate navigation between Mbaracayá and Posadas.
- b) Generate electricity for Argentina and Paraguay (The eventual installed capacity is planned to amount to 2,100,000 KW). In the early stages most of the electricity produced will be consumed by Argentina.
- c) Irrigation of 100,000 square kilometres of Paraguayan territory.
- d) Uniting of the Argentine and Paraguayan road systems by a road passing over the crest of the dam.
- e) Flood control.

The project is one of the three most important hydro-electric schemes in Argentina, the other two being the Chocón Cerros Colorados and the Salto Grande Projects. The present Argentine Government is giving the Salto Grande project priority over Apipé, although interest in the latter is being kept alive by the Governments of Misiones and Corrientes, the Argentine Provinces which would benefit most from it, and by the Paraguayans who would like to see it as a successor to Acaray (q.v. Project 19). One Government spokesman stated recently that work would probably begin in 1975 and be finished by 1980.

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The project itself consists of a 500 metre wide dam, 2 hydro-electric stations, one on each side of the river which will have a maximum output of 1020 MW, a road bridge, 2 locks and a navigation canal. The greater part of the energy produced at Salto Grande will be consumed in Buenos Aires and in Montevideo.

The total cost of the project is calculated to be US\$ 500 million. Of this it is planned that 45 per cent should be Argentine and Uruguayan capital and 55 per cent foreign capital. In 1964, the World Bank turned down a request for finance on the grounds of "lack of official diligence on the part of the interested governments". A new approach was made to the Inter American Development Bank in 1968. In a declaration ratified by the Presidents of Uruguay and Argentina in July 1968, it was agreed that the Salto Grande project should begin providing electricity in 1979. To achieve this, financial arrangements should be completed by 1970 and construction should begin in 1972. Technical, economic and financial studies are being carried out at present by the Canadian consultants Acres International and their Argentine associates. Studies have been carried out in the past by French, German and Italian consultants.

No. 19

Electrical Interconnection of Acaray (Paraguay) and
Misiones (Argentina)

(Project responsibility of Electricidad de Misiones S.A.)

This project arises out of the interest shown in 1963 by the Province of Misiones to use part of the energy from the hydro-electric centre of Acaray (Paraguay) on completion of the latter project. It is proposed to install 336 kilometres of power lines

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approach roads. It will connect the 'southern' part of **Entre Rios** (including the important towns of Concordia, Concepción del Uruguay and Colón) with the Province of Buenos Aires, as well as facilitating the flow of international traffic to Brazil and Paraguay. It is hoped at the same time that such a connection will encourage agricultural production and industrial growth in the Mesopotamian provinces and stimulate tourism.

The cost of the project was estimated to be in 1968 US\$ 74 million of which the Argentine Government will provide US\$ 21 million. Economic and engineering feasibility studies have been completed.

Negotiations for the construction, financing and operation of this project, on a basis of a toll concession, are well advanced.

No. 22

Feasibility study for the construction of a Deep Water
Port

(Project responsibility of Commander in Chief of the Argentine Navy).

Although no decision has yet been reached on the location of this port, it now seems almost certain that it will be in the zone of Cape San Antonio, 170 kilometres south of Buenos Aires at the limit between the River Plate and the Atlantic Ocean. Local interests have pressed the merits of Bahía Blanca but the government are reluctant to allow the degree of decentralisation that a port so far south would imply. A deep water port is thought

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necessary due to the fact that ships of more than 33 feet draught (including modern tankers and grain carriers) are unable to navigate in the River Plate. It is maintained that this raises the costs of both exports and imports. Major storage depots for coal and oil would also be constructed. The overall effect of the port would almost certainly be to extend the present Buenos Aires-Rosario industrial belt southward.

A pre-feasibility study has been started recently at Cape San Antonio by a combined group of American and Argentine consulting engineers (Frederick Harris Engineering Co., R. Nathan Association and Ingenieros Consultores Asociados, Amaya, Devoto, Lanusse, Martin y Pieres). It is not expected that construction work would begin at the earliest for at least 3 years and present plans are for the port to be fully operational by 1990. If Cape San Antonio is chose as the site, construction costs are likely to be very high due to the marshy terrain.

Comment.

The Uruguayan authorities are watching the development of proposals for the construction of a deep water port at Cape San Antonio with concern since plans already exist for turning Montevideo into the chief port of the River Plate area. The more "integrationalist" minded Argentine officials concerned with the River Plate Basin admit that ideally Buenos Aires and Montevideo should be developed on a complementary basis and that if this occurred a third port would be unnecessary. It seems likely however that political and strategic factors will result in this argument being ignored.

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STUDIES AND RESEARCH

No. 25

Elaboration of an Integrated Development

Plan for the Paraná Delta

(Project responsibility of the Ministry of Economy of the Province of Buenos Aires.

The main objective of this study is to find a means of incorporating into the main stream of the economy of the Province of Buenos Aires, the Paraná Delta, an important zone of 2,700 square kilometres close to Buenos Aires but criss-crossed by rivers which up until the present has made its rational exploitation almost impossible. The study which will cost about US\$ 123,000 is being paid for by the Government of the Province of Buenos Aires.

No. 26

Pilot Project for Agricultural Development in the

Paraná Delta

(Project responsibility of National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA)).

This pilot project which is closely connected with project 27 consists of the setting up of an experimental farm of 1,800 hectares, which takes into account the special characteristics of the region.

No decision has yet been taken as to whether or not to go ahead with the study.

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No. 28

German-Argentine Agreement for the Investigation
of Subterranean Waters

(Project the responsibility of Dirección Nacional de Geología y Minería).

This project arises out of the technical cooperation agreement between Argentina and the German Federal Republic signed in 1965. The German Government are to carry out a study of subterranean waters in a zone east of the River Paraná. Eventually this could lead to the exploitation of these waters both for irrigation and other uses. The German Government are providing 9 experts and equipment, as well as technical assistance for a period of 26/36 months. The total cost of the project is US\$ 1,800,000, of which the German and Argentine Governments are providing US\$ 900,000 each. Work began in April, 1969.

No. 29

Hydrographic Survey of the River Plate

(Project responsibility of the Servicio de Hidrografía Naval de la Armada Argentina and Comisión Mixta Argentino-Uruguayo para el Plan de Levantamiento Integral del Rio de la Plata).

This project was to have included hydrographic, geological, geophysical and geographical studies of the River Plate area. These are important in view of the need to improve access to Buenos Aires and the river ports through which the vast majority of the country's imports and exports flow. Navigation, water supplies, sewage disposal, fishing, the positioning of island airports and other problems were also to have been studied as part of the survey.

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No. 31

Planning of new port at Rosario

(Project responsibility of Dirección Nacional de Construcciones Portuarias y Vias Navegables).

The aim of the project is to restore Rosario's position as a grain exporting and machine importing port.

Tenders have been called for and are to be opened on 6 March 1970. The total cost of the work has been budgeted at US\$ 2,732,178.

OTHER PROJECTS

A number of other projects have been proposed by various private and public bodies for the development of the River Plate Basin. As there is little prospect of most of these being executed in the near future, they are not listed below. Two of these projects were, however, commended in the Act of Santa Cruz de la Sierra in May 1968. They are:

No. 32

Frontal Dykes on the Middle Paraná

(Project responsibility of Agua y Energía Eléctrica).

The project aims at the regulation of the Paraná River between Resistencia and Rosario. It will consist of the construction of various dams, weirs, dykes, locks and a hydro-electric station. In this way it is hoped to generate electricity to improve navigation and eventually to provide irrigation.

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The cost of the project was calculated in 1961 to be US\$ 180 million. No studies have been carried out and it is unlikely that any decision will be taken on the project at least until other studies of the Paraná River have been completed. (See for instance Project No. 27).

No. 33

Regulation of the Pilcomayo Basin

This project, first conceived in 1941, is of interest to Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay. Its purpose is the generation of electricity, the improvement of river navigation and irrigation.

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ANNEX B

M A P S

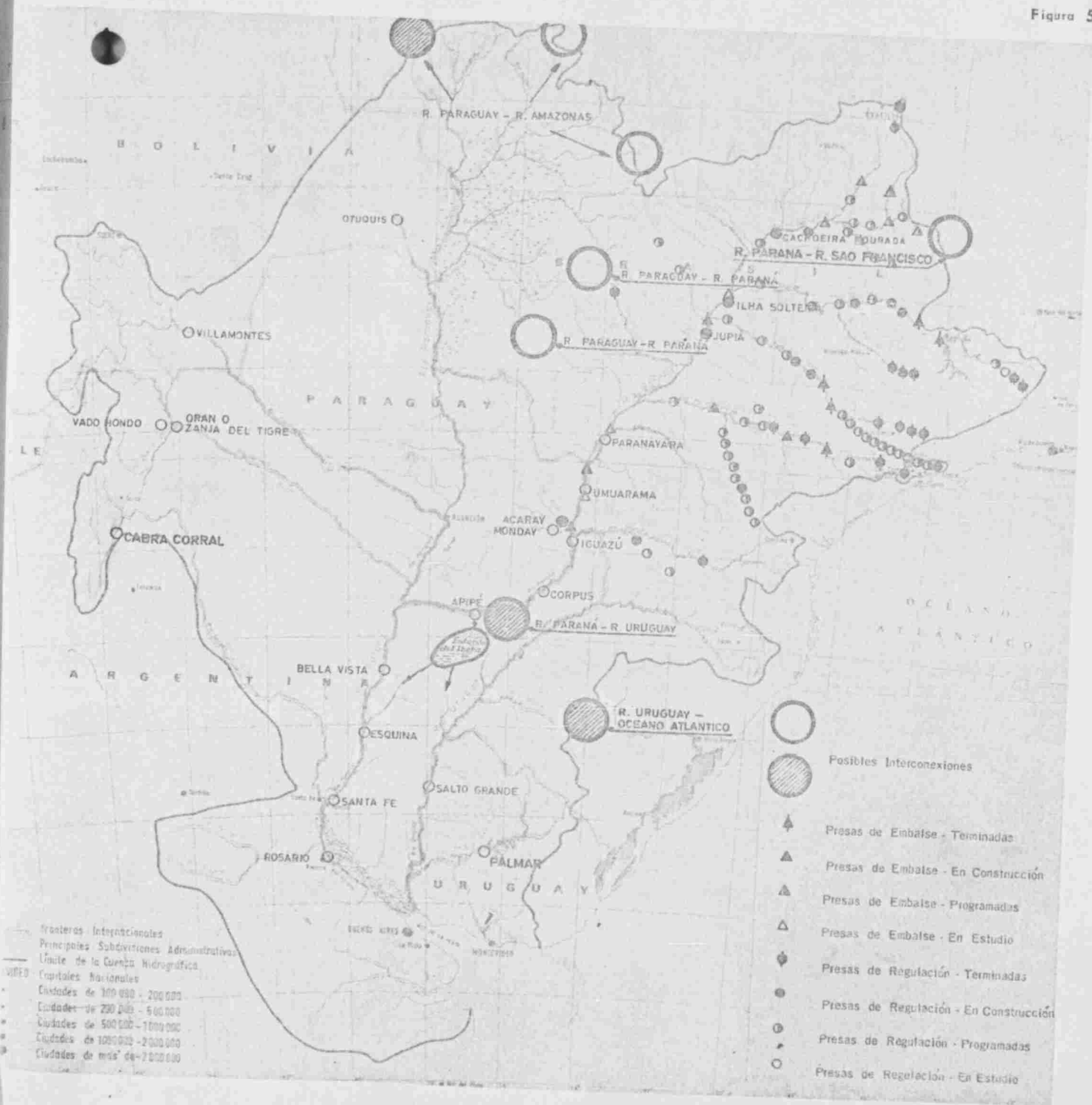
- (1) System of Communications proposed for River Plate Basin.
- (2) Principle Hydraulic projects proposed for River Plate Basin.

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PRINCIPALES PROYECTOS HIDRAULICOS

Figura 5



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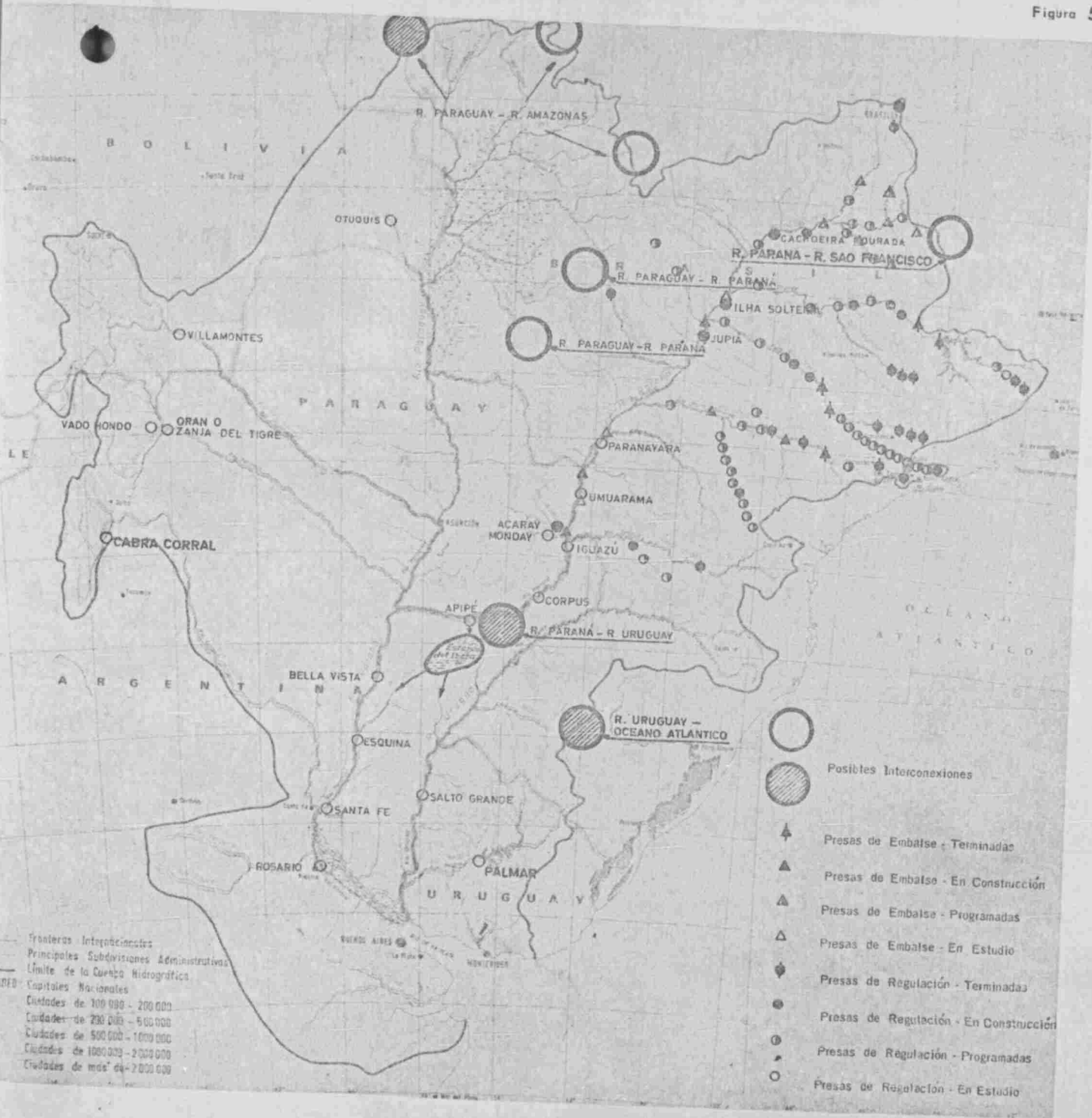
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PRINCIPALES PROYECTOS HIDRAULICOS

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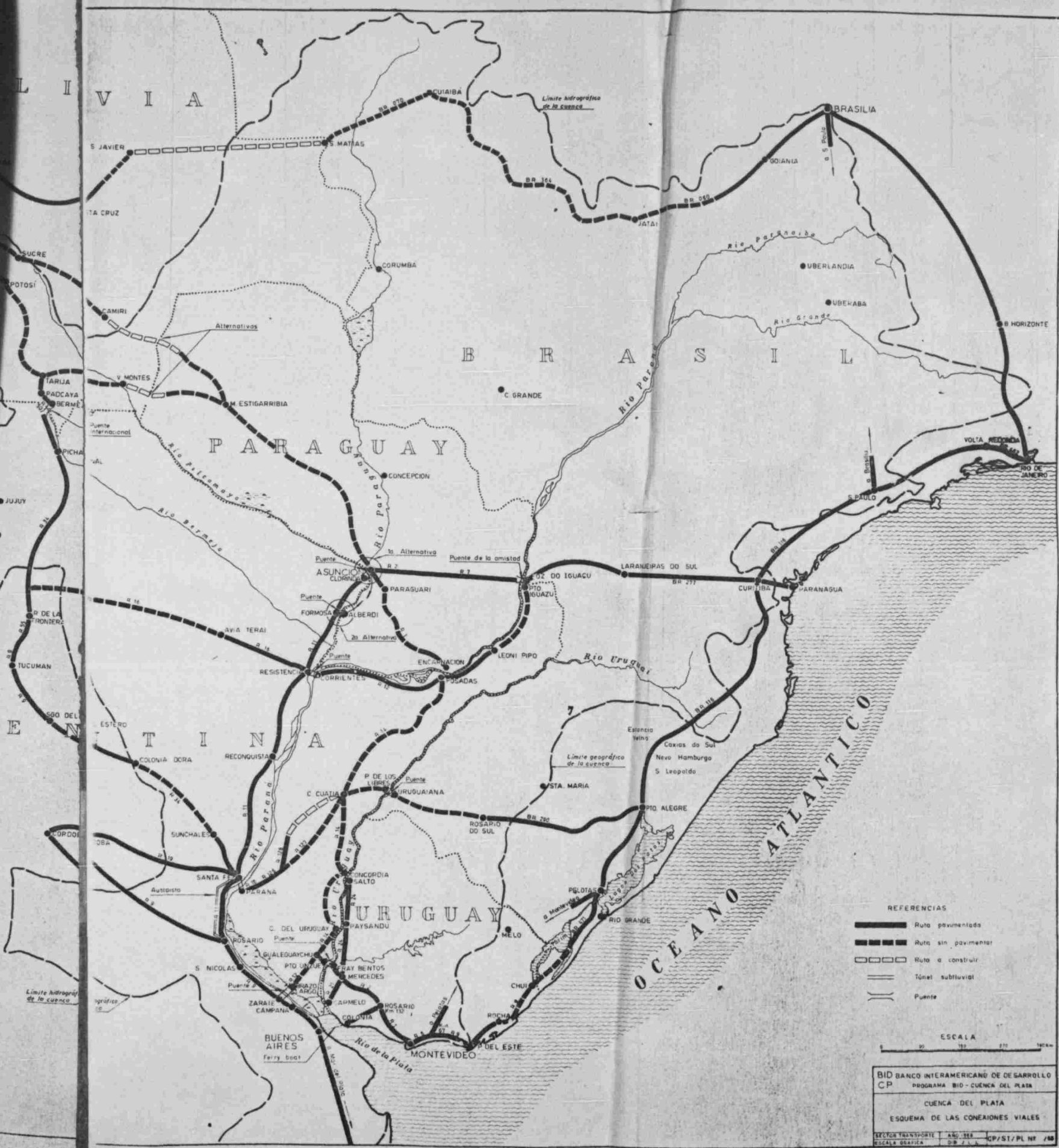
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